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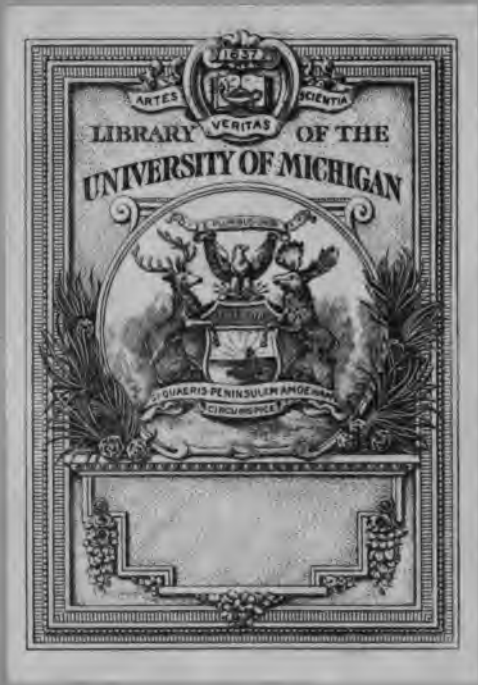
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# The Library World.

A Medium of Intercommunication  
for Librarians.

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Vol. IV.

JULY, 1901, to JUNE, 1902.

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LONDON:  
LIBRARY SUPPLY Co.,  
BRIDGE HOUSE, 181, QUEEN VICTORIA STREET, E.C.  
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Vol. IV., 1901-1902.

By W. S. C. RAE, *Librarian*, Public Library, Darwen.

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The object of this circular and post card is to obtain a record from the borrower personally, which acts as a check upon the record supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, and also enables us to remove the issue at once from the trays, thereby relieving the borrower from all further responsibility with regard to the book.

This plan has worked well since its adoption: 454 notifications being received from the Medical Officer from November, 1899, to March 30th of this year. Borrowers resided in 77 of these houses, and 95 books were handed to the Sanitary Inspector, and were replaced by the Committee, at a cost of £9 18s. 5d. net.

This being rather a large number, and now that we are opening branch libraries, likely to increase, I brought the matter before the Libraries' Committee, suggesting, that as this precaution was taken to safeguard the health of the District, the Council should bear the cost of replacing the books. The Committee instructed me to ascertain the practice at other places, and to that end I sent out a circular letter to 150 librarians asking for information.

To this letter I received 124 replies, and of these, 101 librarians receive a regular notification of all infectious diseases existing in their districts, and 23 only when books are found in such houses.

In reply to the query as to whether books found in such houses were destroyed or returned to the library after disinfection. I found that 49 destroyed all books; 6 send all straight to the Isolation Hospital; 2 destroy some and send others to the hospital; 36 disinfect all books; 27 disinfect or destroy according to the nature of the disease; while 4 do nothing at all in the matter.

Of those that destroy books, 17 Councils bear the full cost of the replacement of the books; 2 pay half the cost; at other two libraries they endeavour to get the borrower to pay, and if not successful, then the Libraries' Committee do so; and in all the other places the Libraries' Committee replace at their own expense, but in the majority of these cases the number of books destroyed has been so small as not to be worth while making an application to their respective Councils for.

According to the Public Health Act, Sanitary Authorities are bound to compensate for bedding, clothing, and articles which suffer unnecessary damage during the process of disinfection, and this being so, it is only reasonable that they should compensate for books destroyed or removed from the library in order to safeguard the health of the district by preventing the spread of disease, especially in view of the limited income of the libraries, and the serious drain which the cost of these replacements proves to be upon the amount set aside for new books each year.

When the Committee's report came before the Council with the recommendation that the Council should in future bear the cost of replacing the books so removed from circulation, it was agreed to, with one dissentient, and this only on the score that being an Urban District Council they had no power to pay this cost. On it being pointed out that in the list of places where the Councils did pay the whole cost,

there were the names of other Urban District Councils, the opposition was at once withdrawn.

As so many librarians have asked for the result of my enquiries upon this subject, the information given above may assist them and others in obtaining a similar result to that achieved by us in Hornsey.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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ARTICLES on book selection and weeding-out are always welcome. The April *Library Journal* contains a paper on the "Method of Evaluating Children's Books" at Springfield (Mass.) City Library, by Miss E. N. Lane and Miss Ida F. Farrar:—

An effort has been made by the Springfield Library to get at certain facts relating to stories and story-books, to find, if possible, exactly what elements tend to make a tale popular, and then to determine whether those elements produce a healthful effect upon the young mind.

At present nearly all the new books are appraised by one person. The appraisal blanks are filled out, with whatever comment is necessary to show especial excellence or the reverse, and then filed for consideration by the librarian.

A half-dozen specimen appraisements are given; and inasmuch as they are a means—a very elaborate means—of keeping utter rubbish off the shelves, they are useful. But the reasons for rejection are sometimes curious, *e.g.*—

BLANCHARD, A. E. Her very best.

In two parts. (1) A pleasant, wholesome story, adapted to girls from 14 to 18. (2) A love story. Objection has been made to love stories by mothers of girls who use our library. Such parents would have good reason to object to this. *Rejected.*

We suppose that boys from fourteen to eighteen are treated in the same way. Because Jack Easy stole the apples, and then "argued the point" as to whether he had a right to them or not, "Mr. Midshipman Easy" is to be forbidden fruit! Because a few of Marryat's characters have a nasty habit of using bad language now and again, we must not be acquainted with them! Well, in that case, the writer would not have read very many of the books (among them Ainsworth's "Jack Sheppard") which he characterised as "stunning" in his early days, and he has no wish to rob the younger generation of the pleasure he has himself enjoyed.

While no fixed principles can be laid down in evaluating juvenile fiction, it may be said in a general way that we look for moral tone, and at least a fair literary style and, in the case of historic fiction, truth as to facts. In books on science we look for truth first and if that be lacking the better the style the more pernicious the book.

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Mr. A. COTGREAVE, West Ham :—

The idea appears to be good. The difficulty will be in getting large libraries with large and rare collections to allow the readers from poor and ill stocked libraries to have access to them equally with their own ratepayers.

Mr. RICHARD W. MOULD, F.S.A., Scot., Newington :—

There are no practical difficulties in the way of its adoption. Some few readers, and particularly students, would undoubtedly be glad of the privilege of borrowing, for home use, from another library, some special work not provided in the library of their own Borough.

This co-operation would be also advantageous to the libraries themselves, as in such circumstances it would be unnecessary for a library to purchase special books only in moderate demand locally if they were already provided in neighbouring libraries.

The scheme seems to require no elaborate working system. Subject to the written consent of the original guarantor, a letter of introduction from the librarian of the Borough where the borrower resides ought to be sufficient for the issue of a temporary ticket at another library for such specified period as circumstances suggest.

Non-resident employees already enjoy the library privileges of residents in some Boroughs, while the Reference Departments are open to all comers: consequently the Battersea proposal does not involve extra work to any alarming extent.

Mr. JOHN FROWDE, Bermondsey :—

Respecting the question of making borrowers' tickets available at any Public Library in London, I can only advance the opinion that at present, at any rate, the proposal is rather inopportune. I would rather wait, or defer discussion, on the question until such time as the Library Act is adopted in all the London Boroughs. I am afraid, if the proposal to make tickets interchangeable were adopted at once, it would rather tend to postpone or defeat the adoption of the Act in these places, as very many persons—probably all interested in borrowing books—would soon obtain tickets from a library in a Borough in which they do not pay rates. They might then say, "Why should we adopt the Act? Why need we trouble so long as we now have books to read?"

Mr. H. HAWKES, Holborn :—

Personally I do not see any objection to borrowers' tickets being interchangeable amongst all London Public Libraries, provided that, in case of any loss being sustained through a borrower from another library, such library would make the same good.

Speaking from experience as to the use made of the above privilege in this Borough since November last, I must say it

has been almost *nil*. The same was also the case in Cambridge. I therefore think that, should the privilege be granted, small advantage will be taken of it.

Mr. HERBERT JONES, Kensington :—

I understand that there are other important proposals to be made by the authority named, and I do not see my way to discuss this particular one in the *Library World*. The views of my Committee has been conveyed to the Battersea Committee on the point you mention.

Mr. WM. A. TAYLOR, St. Giles :—

The proposal is a step in the right direction, and I do not see any insuperable objection to its becoming an accomplished fact, though I am doubtful as to a satisfactory working arrangement being arrived at just yet.

The question of guarantee enters into consideration. At present the guarantee form issued by each library authority is a security to *that* authority only ; thus a universal or common form of guarantee seems to be called for prior to issuing an interchangeable ticket, or, following Battersea's example, guarantees might be abolished altogether, which is a matter for the authorities. In many libraries the borrower's ticket is a prime factor in the charging system, and it seems to me that to be interchangeable the tickets must be uniform throughout the Metropolis, and this presents the greatest difficulty, as nearly every library has a borrower's ticket fashioned conveniently for its own particular method of charging (which, of course, is "the best"), and any suggestion involving interference with this would promptly meet with firm opposition. Each library might keep to its own particular pattern of ticket and issue, on application, a "transfer" to a reader to be presented at another library which would give the reader one of its own tickets ; the original ticket necessarily being retained meanwhile by one or other of the libraries in order to prevent the reader borrowing from both.

As the object of the proposal is to give the public the greatest possible amount of freedom and choice, we might go a step farther and save readers even the trouble of applying for a "transfer" by all the libraries adopting a "universal" ticket, if a common pattern could be agreed upon, the ticket being retained by the library that issued a book to the ticket-holder and handed back on the return of the book. It would of course be a *sine qua non* that before a person could borrow books from any library he must first be enrolled at the library of his own residential district and hold a ticket issued by that library.

Under either scheme it might be found necessary to trace defaulters by means of a Defaulters' List circulating among the libraries once a month or oftener.

(*To be continued.*)

## THE REPLACEMENT OF "INFECTED" BOOKS.

J. H. S. GIBSON, *Chief Librarian, Hornsey Public Libraries.*

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A QUESTION which is agitating the minds of many librarians at the present time is what to do with books that have been in houses where infectious diseases exist.

Whether books do carry infection or not, is a debatable question, and librarians are still arguing for and against, but there is no doubt that people refrain from using our Public Libraries from the fear of books being carried into their houses by this means.

When the Hornsey Public Libraries were organised, the committee desiring to remove all chance of the possibility of disease being spread by books in their libraries, made an arrangement whereby the Medical Officer of Health telephones to the Chief Librarian each evening to report the notifications of infectious diseases received by him during the previous day, also a notification of the houses declared free from infection, and the Sanitary Inspector has instructions to remove all books belonging to the libraries found in such houses, and to destroy or send them to the Isolation Hospital for use of the patients there. The books never come back to the libraries again.

As soon as the address of the infected house is supplied, it was necessary to compile a "streets" index, which was done on cards, one card for each house, with guides for the names of the streets. This index gives the ticket number of the persons residing in each house, so that on an address being given, it is the work of a moment to ascertain if any borrowers are residing there.

Should a ticket holder reside at the address notified, the following letter and post card are sent to him or her:—

### Hornsey Public Libraries.

CENTRAL LIBRARY,  
TOTTENHAM LANE,  
HORNSEY, N.

190

SIR,  
DEAR MADAM,

The Medical Officer of Health has notified me that a case of Infectious Disease exists in your house.

I should be glad if you would enter the numbers and dates of issue of any books belonging to this Library that you may have in your possession, upon the enclosed post card, and return it to me by return of post.

THE LIBRARY WORLD.

7

If no books, mark post card "none."

The books you may have in your possession are to be handed to the Medical Officer of Health or his representative, according to Rule 5, for the purpose of destruction.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. JOHNSTON,  
*Chief Librarian.*

**Hornsey Public Libraries.**

**CENTRAL LENDING DEPARTMENT.**

BOOK NUMBER.

DATE OF ISSUE.

*Name* .....

*Address* .....

The object of this circular and post card is to obtain a record from the borrower personally, which acts as a check upon the record supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, and also enables us to remove the issue at once from the trays, thereby relieving the borrower from all further responsibility with regard to the book.

This plan has worked well since its adoption; 454 notifications being received from the Medical Officer from November, 1899, to March 30th of this year. Borrowers resided in 77 of these houses, and 95 books were handed to the Sanitary Inspector, and were replaced by the Committee, at a cost of £9 18s. 5d. net.

This being rather a large number, and now that we are opening branch libraries, likely to increase, I brought the matter before the Libraries' Committee, suggesting, that as this precaution was taken to safeguard the health of the District, the Council should bear the cost of replacing the books. The Committee instructed me to ascertain the practice at other places, and to that end I sent out a circular letter to 150 librarians asking for information.

To this letter I received 124 replies, and of these, 101 librarians receive a regular notification of all infectious diseases existing in their districts, and 23 only when books are found in such houses.

In reply to the query as to whether books found in such houses were destroyed or returned to the library after disinfection. I found that 49 destroyed all books; 6 send all straight to the Isolation Hospital; 2 destroy some and send others to the hospital; 36 disinfect all books; 27 disinfect or destroy according to the nature of the disease; while 4 do nothing at all in the matter.

Of those that destroy books, 17 Councils bear the full cost of the replacement of the books; 2 pay half the cost; at other two libraries they endeavour to get the borrower to pay, and if not successful, then the Libraries' Committee do so; and in all the other places the Libraries' Committee replace at their own expense, but in the majority of these cases the number of books destroyed has been so small as not to be worth while making an application to their respective Councils for.

According to the Public Health Act, Sanitary Authorities are bound to compensate for bedding, clothing, and articles which suffer unnecessary damage during the process of disinfection, and this being so, it is only reasonable that they should compensate for books destroyed or removed from the library in order to safeguard the health of the district by preventing the spread of disease, especially in view of the limited income of the libraries, and the serious drain which the cost of these replacements proves to be upon the amount set aside for new books each year.

When the Committee's report came before the Council with the recommendation that the Council should in future bear the cost of replacing the books so removed from circulation, it was agreed to, with one dissentient, and this only on the score that being an Urban District Council they had no power to pay this cost. On it being pointed out that in the list of places where the Councils did pay the whole cost,



there were the names of other Urban District Councils, the opposition was at once withdrawn.

As so many librarians have asked for the result of my enquiries upon this subject, the information given above may assist them and others in obtaining a similar result to that achieved by us in Hornsey.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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ARTICLES on book selection and weeding-out are always welcome. The April *Library Journal* contains a paper on the "Method of Evaluating Children's Books" at Springfield (Mass.) City Library, by Miss E. N. Lane and Miss Ida F. Farrar:—

An effort has been made by the Springfield Library to get at certain facts relating to stories and story-books, to find, if possible, exactly what elements tend to make a tale popular, and then to determine whether those elements produce a healthful effect upon the young mind.

At present nearly all the new books are appraised by one person. The appraisal blanks are filled out, with whatever comment is necessary to show especial excellence or the reverse, and then filed for consideration by the librarian.

A half-dozen specimen appraisements are given; and inasmuch as they are a means—a very elaborate means—of keeping utter rubbish off the shelves, they are useful. But the reasons for rejection are sometimes curious, *e.g.*—

BLANCHARD, A. E. Her very best.

In two parts. (1) A pleasant, wholesome story, adapted to girls from 14 to 18. (2) A love story. Objection has been made to love stories by mothers of girls who use our library. Such parents would have good reason to object to this. *Rejected.*

We suppose that boys from fourteen to eighteen are treated in the same way. Because Jack Easy stole the apples, and then "argued the point" as to whether he had a right to them or not, "Mr. Midshipman Easy" is to be forbidden fruit! Because a few of Marryat's characters have a nasty habit of using bad language now and again, we must not be acquainted with them! Well, in that case, the writer would not have read very many of the books (among them Ainsworth's "Jack Sheppard") which he characterised as "stunning" in his early days, and he has no wish to rob the younger generation of the pleasure he has himself enjoyed.

While no fixed principles can be laid down in evaluating juvenile fiction, it may be said in a general way that we look for moral tone, and at least a fair literary style and, in the case of historic fiction, truth as to facts. In books on science we look for truth first and if that be lacking the better the style the more pernicious the book.

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# The Library World.

*A Medium of Intercommunication for Librarians.*

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## EDITORIALS.

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### A Suggestion.

IN this number Mr. Thos. Johnston, the Chief Librarian of the Hornsey Public Libraries, contributes an article on the "infected" book question, following up Mr. Jast's note in a previous issue, in the course of which he gives the result of information obtained from other libraries as to the practices followed. This is an excellent example to other librarians, which we hope they will carefully note and act upon. That is to say, when they next send round the usual circular letter (or it may be a postcard), with the usual batch of questions relating to Sunday opening, or salaries, or the caretaker's uniform, or requiring perhaps a full account of the library, "from the earliest period to the present day," and receive the usual percentage of replies, do not let them pack away all this information in a box or drawer when their immediate purpose is accomplished, there to lie undisturbed till the next librarian comes along, and burns it with other of his predecessor's "rubbish." This is a selfish policy. Let him send it to us for publication, and so make some sort of return for the expenditure of temper and time the replies have cost the busy men of the profession: the men with nothing to do seldom reply. Then the same questions would not continue to be asked. Having answered once the question, What are your hours of opening and closing in all departments? you would not be required to go on answering it several times a year. Should there be so benighted a member of the profession as not to see our magazine, and should he promulgate the query, a postcard with the simple words, "Buy *The Library World*—and read it," will be sufficient. This will at once fulfil the threefold purpose of relieving you, helping your correspondent, and last, but not least, advertising us. Many librarians who might contribute to our columns do not do so, on the plea that they cannot think of anything to write about. Here then is a suggestion. Have they not, stowed away somewhere or other (but, of course, carefully indexed on cards), interesting and valuable material gathered in this way, which would require very little working up to be an acceptable contribution to the comparative study of library methods? It is this comparative study which must form the basis of any thoroughly sound and widely useful system of library economics

VOL. IV., No. 37, July, 1901.

Librarians, it would seem, are not practical men— if any are. Mr. Dewey's plan came to nothing from lack of support. Anything needing *co-operative effort*, either in America or in this country, is foredoomed to failure.

The *Library Assistant* for June is the annual report number. The Association seems in a very flourishing condition, both in its finances and in its work: there is a balance in hand of over £200, and "an excellent programme of papers and discussions has been carried out," although in five cases out of fourteen the meetings have been pleasure parties rather than business gatherings.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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THE daily average issue of the **Cheltenham** Public Library has dropped from 457 in 1899-1900 to 434 in 1900-1.

The Committee regret having to show a decrease in the issue of books for home reading, and they experience the same difficulty in properly accounting for the decrease, as do the Committees of libraries in other towns, but the reasons generally assigned, namely, the excitement of the South African war and the troubles in China and elsewhere can, in a measure, be held responsible for a part of the falling off . . . The reading of the newspapers has taken the attention of many readers of books . . . Trade generally has been brisk and received the attention of many who would otherwise have continued the perusal of books in the leisure hours not required for business. Again it may be traced to the great and widespread devotion to out-door recreation, &c.

This is a very elaborate explanation for a decrease of 23 in the combined daily average issue. Two book exhibitions have been held in connection with this library; one of decorative art work, the other of books, maps, plates, &c., relating to Cheltenham and neighbourhood. Four lectures were given in illustration of the subjects of the exhibition, and the combined attendance was 3,116.

The result was so gratifying to the Committee that they hope to repeat this new departure during the coming winter . . . Their educational value is great, and with the aid of lantern slides promised by the S. Kensington Museum . . . on Architecture, Ironwork, Woodwork, and the like, will greatly add to the intelligent appreciation of the subjects.

We hope that success will continue to accompany the library's efforts in this direction. A selection of local prints from the library portfolios are to be framed and placed on screens in the Art Gallery. By the way, how are the prints in the portfolios arranged?—are they mounted or loose, arranged in a particular order or indexed? Perhaps Mr. Jones will let us know.

We have received a second edition of **Nottingham's** Class-List of Works in Foreign Languages. The original edition appeared in 1887, and consisted of twenty pages; that before us consists of forty pages. No less than thirty-five languages are represented. The entries are clear and full; only one point in the arrangement appears to us curious, the period after the author's surname and the comma after the christian name, *e.g.*, "Commynes. Phillipe de, Mémoires." Nottingham has been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Prof. Weekley, M.A., a very eminent scholar of modern languages, to read the proofs of the French and German sections.

The **Hanley** Report, 1900-1, with supplementary catalogue appended, shows a "decided increase in the issues on all previous years," and makes a point of the fact that "for the sixth year in succession the year's work has been carried on without the loss of a single volume." Some of the entries in the supplementary catalogue are annotated; and very many more might be similarly treated with advantage. However, half a loaf is better than none; and if librarians have neither the time nor the space to annotate fully, they are well advised in annotating all the most important works they can.

The **Croydon** Report for 1900-1 is a very full account of the year's work, and more interesting than the bald statistical reports which do duty for so many libraries. The total issues were 351,661, an increase of 32,267 on last year's figures. The fiction percentage has dropped from 63.7 in 1898-9 to 60.6. A point is made of the rise of the reference issues from 6,022 in 1898-9 to 13,308 in 1899-1900 and 36,267 in 1900-1. These figures are not, we are assured "inflated by counting consultations of directories and such like works, and by the unrestricted issue of popular illustrated magazines like *The Illustrated London News, Punch, &c.*"

If the figures quoted mean anything at all they point to the wisdom of the recent policy followed by the committee in regard to the reference library. Briefly, that policy has consisted in shelving the books as far as possible in open cases, and providing comfortable accommodation for the people who consult them. There are, of course, other factors which have contributed to the success achieved, but they are supplementary to the two named. No system of cataloguing, no popularising efforts can take the place of the books themselves, which are their own best advertisements, and bad accommodation or illiberal rules will keep away all but the most enthusiastic and determined readers.

The following paragraph on technical books is worthy of note :—

The committee have again to thank the Corporation for a grant of £300 for the purchase of technical books from the moneys available for technical education. They have already recorded their opinion that—"a representative and up-to-date technical library in the Public Library is an indispensable complement to the work of the Polytechnics,"—but to minister to the Polytechnic and School of Art student, though very important, is

by no means to cover the whole field of usefulness of a public technical library. That field is much wider ; the professional man, the manufacturer, the mechanic and craftsman should all be catered for. They should then be urged to avail themselves of the literature placed within their reach. The people of this country can no longer afford to be ignorant of anything in manufacture and trade which it is possible to learn either in the school, shop, or study, and a wise expenditure on commercial and technical education will always include the provision of the latest and best books in art and science, especially applied science, located where they can be properly classified, catalogued, and cared for, and where all who desire to refer to them are made welcome.

An exhibition of the technical books purchased was held in March and was attended by 707 persons. The Committee have engaged a sewer and repairer—

To carry out all repairs to books short of actual re-binding. A large proportion of modern books are so badly sewn and fastened into the covers that it is no uncommon thing for the sections of a new book to come loose after a single issue, and in quite a large proportion of instances, mainly novels of course, the sections come loose when there is still a good life before the covers. These books are now re-sewn and replaced in the old covers on the premises, instead of being re-bound. . . . Apart from any possible direct economy, the convenience of the new arrangement and the fact that the stock will be kept in better condition than hitherto will result, it is believed, in an appreciable saving.

Under "Cataloguing" we are told that:—"A somewhat new departure was the sending of a typed list of books on carpentry, joinery, and kindred subjects, to all the cabinet makers and carpenters in Croydon, with a circular letter asking that the list might be hung in a prominent position in the workshop and brought to the attention of the men." This seems a good idea, and capable of imitation and development.

Printed among the appendices to this report is Mr. Jast's report on the Bristol Conference of the Library Association, from which we extract two characteristic paragraphs:—

There is no doubt whatever that as the years pass Public Libraries will develop more and more the 'missionary' side of their work, but in order that they may do this adequately they will need to be more generously financed than they are at present. As the modern idea of a museum as a collection of labels with specimens attached is the reverse of the old idea, so it seems likely that the future conception of the Public Library will similarly exalt the guiding and expository side over the mere storage and circulation of so many books, without in any way, as it is to be feared some enthusiastic efforts on the part of some libraries do, trenching on the domain of the schoolmaster.

The plan of placing new books for examination by readers before putting them into circulation is really a plea for open

access, as it recognises the need for a personal examination of the books if readers are really to know what they are getting. It is certainly much better than the plan, common in many libraries now, of exhibiting new books in a glazed case, which can be of but little help towards the exercising of an intelligent choice, which is the goal of all the efforts proposed for the development of the educational work of Public Libraries. Hence, in my opinion, open access is the true foundation of all this work, an intelligent and consequently educative choice at the shelves.

The 1900-1 report of the **Bootle** Free Library and Museum Committee contains a plan of the library building and illustrations of the exterior, the art room, the hall, the magazine room and the natural history room of the museum. There has been an increase of 3,000 in the issue; and the fiction percentage was 70.7 as against 74.4 in 1899-1900. We learn that —

The quarterly *Journal* has been regularly issued, and is highly valued as a periodical supplement to the catalogue. Nos. 4, 6 and 8 are entirely out of print.

No information as to the cost of producing it is given in the account, although the amount received from sales is stated. It is difficult to obtain reliable information as to how much librarians may expect to lose if they start a magazine, or how much they may expect to gain. The *Journal* for June contains the usual notes on books; a good reading list for cyclists; some press cuttings on the Bootle Corporate Charter; a list of recent accessions; and two illustrations from the Report, in addition to technical school and museum matter. The "Notes" are not particularly illuminative. Such statements as "deserves to be read by a number of readers," "the result is both picturesque and noteworthy," "a noble and enduring monument," and "the work is radiant with the lights that make an ancient darkness intelligible," are very superficial tags of criticism, which most readers will probably ignore. Instead of this sort of thing, the editor would do better to give, where a book lays itself open to it, a brief conspectus of its scope, or, if an appraisal is necessary, to take one from a review in a journal of note. He must be reminded also that he incurs, on behalf of his little publication, a responsibility too great to be borne by any library magazine when he remarks of Frazer's "Golden Bough" that "it will probably be looked back upon by our successors as one of the few really significant books produced in the ambitious last years of the nineteenth century." Although, in our opinion, open to improvement in these points, the *Journal* is undoubtedly one of the best of its kind; and we are always glad to see it among our batch of journals and reports. We have also received from Bootle the fourth edition of the *Catalogue of Books for the Young*. It is in two parts: (1) "Tales and Stories," (2) "Entertaining and Instructive Books." The fiction is arranged under authors, the non-fiction under authors and subjects, with the subjects in small capitals. We learn that a system of fortnightly book deliveries is in operation at three of the local board schools, and a large use is made of the catalogue by

scholars in these and in other schools. We are very glad to see that so much attention is being paid to Bootle's younger generation. A good juvenile section controlled by competent librarians, in close connection with the schools, is out and away better than one under the management of the School Board. In many large towns school authorities are spending money on books which are badly selected and never properly cared for; if each made a yearly grant to the Public Library on condition that a central juvenile section, with delivery stations at the schools, was organised, greater satisfaction would be felt by all parties. Not the least of the benefits of a centralised system would be a catalogue such as the one before us, which is a model of its kind.

The daily average issue of the **Kilburn** Report, according to the 1900-01 Report, is 364, an increase of nearly 40 as compared with last year. The substantial addition to the juvenile shelves and the reduction of the age limit has been greatly appreciated, the issue of these books having increased by 2,886.

We beg to acknowledge the receipt of reports from Waterloo-with-Seaforth, Kensal Rise, Eastbourne, Hereford, Great Yarmouth, and Kettering; and the *Nottingham Library Bulletin* (June).



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*Communications for this column, which is not Editorial, should be signed, as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*

WE have been asked to state that the catalogue of the North Woolwich Public Library, over which the papers have been making merry, has been wrongly attributed to Mr. Wm. **Bridle**, Librarian of East Ham, who has, however, had nothing to do with it.

IN the report issued by the committee dealing with the present position and wants of the **University of Glasgow**, it is stated that the library is one of the neediest of all the departments, though one of the most important. Alas, what a lot of needy libraries there are in the country.

MR. **T. Graham**, for some years sub-librarian at Lambeth Central Library, has been appointed chief librarian at **Lewisham**, at a salary of £200 per annum.

AT a meeting of the **Dublin** Public Libraries' Committee a motion to appoint the senior assistant of Capel Street Library to the vacant position of librarian of the Thomas Street Library was withdrawn, on the ground that the Standing Orders of the Corporation required the vacancy to be advertised.



AT a meeting of the **Launceston** Town Council it was stated, on behalf of the Public Library, that it was not receiving adequate financial support, and that "It was a disgraceful thing that the support of the institution should fall on the rates and on eleven or twelve subscribers." We sincerely hope the appeal will be successful, but how many Public Libraries with very limited rates are there in the country which number any subscribers at all? Every Home for Destitute Cats, or Society for the Provision of the Buggaboos and Kickapoos with Pocket Handkerchiefs, seems to be able to rake in the shekels, but nobody ever seems to think of their local Public Library. Why is it, we wonder?

AN offer has been made to the Urban District Council of **Greater Newton Abbott** of No. 29, Wolborough Street as a site for the proposed Public Library, the vendor pointing out as a special inducement that he understands on excellent authority that the mother of Mr. Passmore Edwards, in whose memory the building was to be erected, was born and lived in the *adjoining* house. As a reason for adopting the site this strikes us as extremely funny.

**Dunblane** has on a *plébiscite* declared against the Free Libraries Act by 202 votes to 130. The burgh thus loses £1,000 offered by Mr. Andrew Carnegie, £500 offered by the Reading Association, and a free site offered by the late Colonel Stirling of Kippendavie.

THE **Bournemouth** Library Committee has asked the Council to provide increased accommodation at the Central Library. The librarian's salary has been increased.

MR. G. **Chambers**, sub-librarian at Walthamstow, has been appointed senior assistant at Woolwich, at a salary of £80 per annum.

AT **Woolwich** the Council, on the recommendation of the Library Committee, granted an honorarium of £25 to Mr. E. Foskett, Chief Librarian of Camberwell, for assistance rendered and advice given, tendering him also their heartiest thanks. The General Purposes Committee recommended "that an area of 925 square yards at the western end of the land recently purchased in High Street, Plumstead, fronting High Street for 60 feet, and running back 145 feet in depth, be allotted as the proposed site for a Public Library in Plumstead.

AT **Wigan** Mr. D. Dix, an ex-town councillor, has presented to the free library the original set of fine old bells formerly used by the Wigan Campanologists' Society.

AT **Glasgow** satisfactory progress is being made with the big scheme of branch libraries sanctioned last year by the Corporation, and which has had such a fillip given to it by Mr. Carnegie's magnificent gift of £100,000. The scheme provided for the establishment of eight branch libraries, the cost of the sites and buildings for which was estimated at £60,000, also five district reading rooms, the annual upkeep of each of which was calculated at £400, with the addition of a few offices in outlying districts for the delivery and reception of

### Librarianship in the Press.

A NEW feature—and what should prove by no means the least interesting and valuable portion of what we trust we may fairly consider an interesting and valuable publication—is inaugurated in the present number. We allude to the column headed “The Library Press,” which will contain each month a synopsis and review of the principal contents of the various periodicals devoted to librarianship published in this country, and in America and elsewhere. A few years ago such a column would have been almost ridiculous, but a remarkable change has taken place in this respect, as a consequence of the wave of public enthusiasm which has set in since, and which is probably destined to rise higher in the immediate future, as Public Libraries bulk more largely in the national life. Time was when *The Library* in this country and *The Library Journal* in America were the sole representatives in the Press of the craft of librarianship. Now there are at least seven papers in English appealing wholly or largely to the professional librarian. Of these England accounts for no less than four. *The Library*, after a somewhat chequered career as the adopted organ of the Library Association, has now retired from the work-a-day, toiling ranks of the monthlies into the dignified and select company of the quarterlies; and, as befits a translation which may be compared to that from the Commons to the Lords, has exchanged its former neat and serviceable *journal* for one exceeding handsome. With its heavy paper, broad margins, large type, and necessarily rather large price—which, however, it is well worth—it is a veritable *magasin de luxe*, a monument to the energy and enterprise and taste of its editor. *The Library Association Record*, by the very colour of its covers no less than by its title and general physiognomy, proclaims its sternly official character. *The Library Assistant* deserves “honourable mention” in this roll of the English library Press, which is completed by—ourselves. A perhaps too insistent modesty has caused us to name ourselves last. America has *The Library Journal* and *Public Libraries*, and Australia makes the latest addition to the list in *The Library Record of Australasia*. If it is a sign of progress—and who doubts it?—for any craft to have its technical journal or journals, then the profession is to be congratulated on the advance achieved. There is, or should be, room for all these publications. It is well for the various library associations to have their official organs. It is also well to have an independent organ, in which all questions affecting libraries and librarians can be discussed with a freedom impossible in a purely official magazine, and whose contents must maintain a certain standard of practicality and up-to-dateness, and of readableness, if it is to live. In these respects we believe that *The Library World* has amply justified its existence, thanks to the many librarians and others who have contributed to its columns, and who have given it the character and standing it now possesses.



## INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS.

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## THE VIEWS OF LONDON LIBRARIANS.

## I.

CONSIDERABLE interest having been aroused by the proposal of the Battersea Library Committee that readers' tickets should be made interchangeable amongst the Public Libraries of London, we have asked the various librarians concerned for an expression of their views on the subject for publication in *The Library World*. These views are of a diverse character, and many interesting points are touched on. To those librarians who have been so good as to reply to our request we hereby record our thanks; we hope that those who have not yet done so will send in their contributions to the symposium in due course.

By courtesy of Mr. Laurence Inkster, the Chief Librarian of Battersea, we are enabled to print the circular letter which his Committee sent out to the Metropolitan Libraries in April last:—

## BATTERSEA BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Central Public Library,  
265, Lavender Hill, S.W.  
*April 22nd, 1901.*

Dear Sir,

The Library Committee of Battersea are considering the desirability of removing the restrictions which at present limits the issue of books for home reading to persons who reside within the Borough. They think that this is a matter on which it would be well to consult the other Library Authorities in London, with a view to ascertaining whether a general agreement might not be arrived at to make Borrowers' Cards interchangeable throughout the Metropolis, and I am directed to ask that your Committee will be good enough to state their views on this subject.

A step in this direction has already been made in some Boroughs, where non-residents who are employed in those districts are allowed to borrow books for home use, and it is thought that an extension of this privilege would be to the advantage of the public in many ways.

Should this proposal be received with anything like general favour, the scheme might be fully discussed, and the details of a working arrangement settled, at a Conference of representatives from each Committee.

The favour of an early reply will be esteemed.

I am, &c.,

L. INKSTER.

To the Librarian,

The object of this circular and post card is to obtain a record from the borrower personally, which acts as a check upon the record supplied by the Sanitary Inspector, and also enables us to remove the issue at once from the trays, thereby relieving the borrower from all further responsibility with regard to the book.

This plan has worked well since its adoption; 454 notifications being received from the Medical Officer from November, 1899, to March 30th of this year. Borrowers resided in 77 of these houses, and 95 books were handed to the Sanitary Inspector, and were replaced by the Committee, at a cost of £9 18s. 5d. net.

This being rather a large number, and now that we are opening branch libraries, likely to increase, I brought the matter before the Libraries' Committee, suggesting, that as this precaution was taken to safeguard the health of the District, the Council should bear the cost of replacing the books. The Committee instructed me to ascertain the practice at other places, and to that end I sent out a circular letter to 150 librarians asking for information.

To this letter I received 124 replies, and of these, 101 librarians receive a regular notification of all infectious diseases existing in their districts, and 23 only when books are found in such houses.

In reply to the query as to whether books found in such houses were destroyed or returned to the library after disinfection. I found that 49 destroyed all books; 6 send all straight to the Isolation Hospital; 2 destroy some and send others to the hospital; 36 disinfect all books; 27 disinfect or destroy according to the nature of the disease; while 4 do nothing at all in the matter.

Of those that destroy books, 17 Councils bear the full cost of the replacement of the books; 2 pay half the cost; at other two libraries they endeavour to get the borrower to pay, and if not successful, then the Libraries' Committee do so; and in all the other places the Libraries' Committee replace at their own expense, but in the majority of these cases the number of books destroyed has been so small as not to be worth while making an application to their respective Councils for.

According to the Public Health Act, Sanitary Authorities are bound to compensate for bedding, clothing, and articles which suffer unnecessary damage during the process of disinfection, and this being so, it is only reasonable that they should compensate for books destroyed or removed from the library in order to safeguard the health of the district by preventing the spread of disease, especially in view of the limited income of the libraries, and the serious drain which the cost of these replacements proves to be upon the amount set aside for new books each year.

When the Committee's report came before the Council with the recommendation that the Council should in future bear the cost of replacing the books so removed from circulation, it was agreed to, with one dissentient, and this only on the score that being an Urban District Council they had no power to pay this cost. On it being pointed out that in the list of places where the Councils did pay the whole cost,

there were the names of other Urban District Councils, the opposition was at once withdrawn.

As so many librarians have asked for the result of my enquiries upon this subject, the information given above may assist them and others in obtaining a similar result to that achieved by us in Hornsey.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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ARTICLES on book selection and weeding-out are always welcome. The April *Library Journal* contains a paper on the "Method of Evaluating Children's Books" at Springfield (Mass.) City Library, by Miss E. N. Lane and Miss Ida F. Farrar:—

An effort has been made by the Springfield Library to get at certain facts relating to stories and story-books, to find, if possible, exactly what elements tend to make a tale popular, and then to determine whether those elements produce a healthful effect upon the young mind.

At present nearly all the new books are appraised by one person. The appraisal blanks are filled out, with whatever comment is necessary to show especial excellence or the reverse, and then filed for consideration by the librarian.

A half-dozen specimen appraisements are given; and inasmuch as they are a means—a very elaborate means—of keeping utter rubbish off the shelves, they are useful. But the reasons for rejection are sometimes curious, e.g.—

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While no fixed principles can be laid down in evaluating juvenile fiction, it may be said in a general way that we look for moral tone, and at least a fair literary style and, in the case of historic fiction, truth as to facts. In books on science we look for truth first and if that be lacking the better the style the more pernicious the book.

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"The Functions of a Branch Library," by Richard E. Wilson, Richmond Branch, Philadelphia, in the May number of *Public Libraries* is a very interesting article, which should be read by all branch librarians. The subject is one which has hitherto received little attention, but we hope to deal with it in these columns shortly. In this number of our Transatlantic contemporary is a note on the "animal day" of the Peru (Ind.) Library. A circus having been advertised to perform in the town, the pushful lady librarian, Miss Shirk, infected her customers with a fever for animal literature. "The library was decorated with pictures of Landseer, Bonheur, and other masters. . . . Children furnished their drawings of animal pictures. . . . Everything in sight related to animals." The children "simply grabbed the animal books, and hung on to them until we could charge them. . . . We had two live baby lions and a monkey . . . on exhibition. . . . The talks planned on the art side and on natural history side could not be given for the jam." This is enterprise, if you like. But we object very strongly to the "real live beasts." It is too striking a testimony to the fact that even books have their limits. However, since Miss Shirk thinks the notion good, we would suggest that, when the menagerie next visits the town, her "animal books" be taken round to the show, and issued there, in order that her readers may have any number of real live (both baby and adult) incentives to borrow. The talks could be held there also, and thus the "jam" would be prevented at the library. The principle of the association of the theoretical and practical has enormous possibilities. In the future Utopia separate libraries will be unheard of, but special libraries (everything will be specialised then) will be closely connected with special schools established at places where it is possible to see actual objects of study. For example, there will be a special library, and a special school, situated in Colorado Cañon, for the minute study of the geological structure of that cañon. There will be a library and school of glacial geology in Switzerland. Forestry and evolution will be studied in Borneo; the ocean bed will be examined in submarine boats; the physiography of the moon will be studied on the spot—probably, but we do not promise this last. And so on.

*The Library* for April is rich in practical articles. Mr. Melvil Dewey writes on "Printed Catalogue Cards from a Central Bureau";

has been almost *nil*. The same was also the case in Cambridge. I therefore think that, should the privilege be granted, small advantage will be taken of it.

Mr. HERBERT JONES, Kensington :—

I understand that there are other important proposals to be made by the authority named, and I do not see my way to discuss this particular one in the *Library World*. The views of my Committee has been conveyed to the Battersea Committee on the point you mention.

Mr. WM. A. TAYLOR, St. Giles :—

The proposal is a step in the right direction, and I do not see any insuperable objection to its becoming an accomplished fact, though I am doubtful as to a satisfactory working arrangement being arrived at just yet.

The question of guarantee enters into consideration. At present the guarantee form issued by each library authority is a security to *that* authority only ; thus a universal or common form of guarantee seems to be called for prior to issuing an interchangeable ticket, or, following Battersea's example, guarantees might be abolished altogether, which is a matter for the authorities. In many libraries the borrower's ticket is a prime factor in the charging system, and it seems to me that to be interchangeable the tickets must be uniform throughout the Metropolis, and this presents the greatest difficulty, as nearly every library has a borrower's ticket fashioned conveniently for its own particular method of charging (which, of course, is "the best"), and any suggestion involving interference with this would promptly meet with firm opposition. Each library might keep to its own particular pattern of ticket and issue, on application, a "transfer" to a reader to be presented at another library which would give the reader one of its own tickets ; the original ticket necessarily being retained meanwhile by one or other of the libraries in order to prevent the reader borrowing from both.

As the object of the proposal is to give the public the greatest possible amount of freedom and choice, we might go a step farther and save readers even the trouble of applying for a "transfer" by all the libraries adopting a "universal" ticket, if a common pattern could be agreed upon, the ticket being retained by the library that issued a book to the ticket-holder and handed back on the return of the book. It would of course be a *sine qua non* that before a person could borrow books from any library he must first be enrolled at the library of his own residential district and hold a ticket issued by that library.

Under either scheme it might be found necessary to trace defaulters by means of a Defaulters' List circulating among the libraries once a month or oftener.

(*To be continued.*)

## THE REPLACEMENT OF "INFECTED" BOOKS.

By THOS. JOHNSTON, *Chief Librarian, Hornsey Public Libraries.*

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**A** QUESTION which is agitating the minds of many librarians at the present time is what to do with books that have been in houses where infectious diseases exist.

Whether books do carry infection or not, is a debatable question, and scientists are still arguing for and against, but there is no doubt that a great many people refrain from using our Public Libraries from fear of infection being carried into their houses by this means.

When the Hornsey Public Libraries were organised, the committee wishing to remove all chance of the possibility of disease being spread by means of the books in their libraries, made an arrangement whereby the Medical Officer of Health telephones to the Chief Librarian each morning a list of the notifications of infectious diseases received by him during the previous day, also a notification of the houses declared free after disinfection, and the Sanitary Inspector has instructions to remove all books belonging to the libraries found in such houses, and to destroy or send them to the Isolation Hospital for use of the patients there. The books never come back to the libraries again.

As only the address of the infected house is supplied, it was necessary to compile a "streets" index, which was done on cards, one card to each house, with guides for the names of the streets. This index gives the ticket number of the persons residing in each house indexed, so that on an address being given, it is the work of a moment to ascertain if any borrowers are residing there.

Should a ticket holder reside at the address notified, the following circular letter and post card are sent to him or her:—

### **Hornsey Public Libraries.**

CENTRAL LIBRARY,  
TOTTENHAM LANE,  
HORNSEY, N.

190

DEAR SIR,  
MADAM,

The Medical Officer of Health has notified me that a case of Infectious Disease exists in your house.

I should be glad if you would enter the numbers and dates of issue of any books belonging to this Library that you may have in your possession, upon the enclosed post card, and return it to me by return of post.



If no books, mark post card "none."

The books you may have in your possession are to be handed to the Medical Officer of Health or his representative, according to Rule 5, for the purpose of destruction.

Yours faithfully,

THOS. JOHNSTON,

*Chief Librarian.*

**Hornsey Public Libraries.**

**CENTRAL LENDING DEPARTMENT.**

BOOK NUMBER.

DATE OF ISSUE.

*Name* .....

*Address* .....

.....

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Mr. J. D. Brown holds another brief for "Descriptive Cataloguing," the recent spread of which is, in no small measure, due to his advocacy; Mr. J. Ballinger, in "Admission to Public Libraries in Great Britain," argues (on most points convincingly) in favour of more liberal regulations in this respect; and Mr. Stanley Jast holds forth on the "Problem of the Printed Catalogue, with a Possible Solution." The last contains a novel proposal, the adoption of which would keep readers informed of current additions and would provide a five-year catalogue. It is suggested that magazines and bulletins issued by library authorities for the benefit of borrowers should be indexed (author and subject) on the completion of the yearly volume—a practice only followed in this country in one or two cases.

At the end of the second year, let us say, the indexes are issued for the completed volume, and are then combined with the preceding indexes, the cumulative indexes thus becoming a catalogue of the additions for two years. . . . The third year's indexes are incorporated with the indexes for the two preceding years, and so on, until a certain unit is reached, differing in different libraries. Suppose this unit to be five years. Then at the end of the sixth year, the index entries will be incorporated as before, but the first year's will be eliminated.

The idea has not been tried, but it would seem a compromise very acceptable to those who cannot afford elaborately printed catalogues, and do not like to do without altogether.

"It is not suggested," says Mr. Jast, "that the magazine and five-year catalogue will be alone sufficient to meet all needs, though the requirements of the majority of readers will be pretty well met by the books of a semi-decade, when 'the latest,' in whatsoever departments of literature, is so hungrily perused. There will still be plenty of scope for class lists, but these will be issued in particular subjects as wanted, and as it is convenient to prepare them."

Under present circumstances, when every library authority does its work independently, thorough and uniform cataloguing is an impossibility. Mr. Melvil Dewey advocates the adoption of a system of co-operative cataloguing, by means of a central cataloguing and distributing bureau. He proposes, for example, that the National Library at Washington—which receives all books copyrighted—be made the centre for cataloguing and annotating all books published, clearly printing the entries on cards, and distributing them to subscribers.

"Hardly anything in modern life," says Mr. Dewey, "will appeal more strongly to a business man than the increased economy and efficiency, and therefore the practical necessity of doing away with the present duplication of labour, and having cataloguing, printing, and annotating done, once for all, in one place, for all libraries for these books, every copy of which is an exact duplicate of each other."

The latter sentence states our case exactly. The former we disagree with. The "moral tone" is too cold-blooded. What better literary style do you want than that which provides a chapter-ending sufficiently startling to make you turn to the next with sparkling eyes and bated breath? And wherefore give us the pill of historic fact in our jam? A more liberal method is this:—Find out which books do not circulate habitually, and which do; and select and replace all the latter that are not clearly worthless.

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"The Functions of a Branch Library," by Richard E. Wilson, Richmond Branch, Philadelphia, in the May number of *Public Libraries* is a very interesting article, which should be read by all branch librarians. The subject is one which has hitherto received little attention, but we hope to deal with it in these columns shortly. In this number of our Transatlantic contemporary is a note on the "animal day" of the Peru (Ind.) Library. A circus having been advertised to perform in the town, the pushful lady librarian, Miss Shirk, infected her customers with a fever for animal literature. "The library was decorated with pictures of Landseer, Bonheur, and other masters. . . . Children furnished their drawings of animal pictures. . . . Everything in sight related to animals." The children "simply grabbed the animal books, and hung on to them until we could charge them. . . . We had two live baby lions and a monkey. . . . on exhibition. . . . The talks planned on the art side and on natural history side could not be given for the jam." This is enterprise, if you like. But we object very strongly to the "real live beasts." It is too striking a testimony to the fact that even books have their limits. However, since Miss Shirk thinks the notion good, we would suggest that, when the menagerie next visits the town, her "animal books" be taken round to the show, and issued there, in order that her readers may have any number of real live (both baby and adult) incentives to borrow. The talks could be held there also, and thus the "jam" would be prevented at the library. The principle of the association of the theoretical and practical has enormous possibilities. In the future Utopia separate libraries will be unheard of, but special libraries (everything will be specialised then) will be closely connected with special schools established at places where it is possible to see actual objects of study. For example, there will be a special library, and a special school, situated in Colorado Cañon, for the minute study of the geological structure of that cañon. There will be a library and school of glacial geology in Switzerland. Forestry and evolution will be studied in Borneo; the ocean bed will be examined in submarine boats; the physiography of the moon will be studied on the spot—probably, but we do not promise this last. And so on.

*The Library* for April is rich in practical articles. Mr. Melvil Dewey writes on "Printed Catalogue Cards from a Central Bureau";

Mr. J. D. Brown holds another brief for "Descriptive Cataloguing," the recent spread of which is, in no small measure, due to his advocacy; Mr. J. Ballinger, in "Admission to Public Libraries in Great Britain," argues (on most points convincingly) in favour of more liberal regulations in this respect; and Mr. Stanley Jast holds forth on the "Problem of the Printed Catalogue, with a Possible Solution." The last contains a novel proposal, the adoption of which would keep readers informed of current additions and would provide a five-year catalogue. It is suggested that magazines and bulletins issued by library authorities for the benefit of borrowers should be indexed (author and subject) on the completion of the yearly volume—a practice only followed in this country in one or two cases.

At the end of the second year, let us say, the indexes are issued for the completed volume, and are then combined with the preceding indexes, the cumulative indexes thus becoming a catalogue of the additions for two years. . . The third year's indexes are incorporated with the indexes for the two preceding years, and so on, until a certain unit is reached, differing in different libraries. Suppose this unit to be five years. Then at the end of the sixth year, the index entries will be incorporated as before, but the first year's will be eliminated.

The idea has not been tried, but it would seem a compromise very acceptable to those who cannot afford elaborately printed catalogues, and do not like to do without altogether.

"It is not suggested," says Mr. Jast, "that the magazine and five-year catalogue will be alone sufficient to meet all needs, though the requirements of the majority of readers will be pretty well met by the books of a semi-decade, when 'the latest,' in whatsoever departments of literature, is so hungrily perused. There will still be plenty of scope for class lists, but these will be issued in particular subjects as wanted, and as it is convenient to prepare them."

Under present circumstances, when every library authority does its work independently, thorough and uniform cataloguing is an impossibility. Mr. Melvil Dewey advocates the adoption of a system of co-operative cataloguing, by means of a central cataloguing and distributing bureau. He proposes, for example, that the National Library at Washington—which receives all books copyrighted—be made the centre for cataloguing and annotating all books published, clearly printing the entries on cards, and distributing them to subscribers.

"Hardly anything in modern life," says Mr. Dewey, "will appeal more strongly to a business man than the increased economy and efficiency, and therefore the practical necessity of doing away with the present duplication of labour, and having cataloguing, printing, and annotating done, once for all, in one place, for all libraries for these books, every copy of which is an exact duplicate of each other."

by no means to cover the whole field of usefulness of a public technical library. That field is much wider; the professional man, the manufacturer, the mechanic and craftsman should all be catered for. They should then be urged to avail themselves of the literature placed within their reach. The people of this country can no longer afford to be ignorant of anything in manufacture and trade which it is possible to learn either in the school, shop, or study, and a wise expenditure on commercial and technical education will always include the provision of the latest and best books in art and science, especially applied science, located where they can be properly classified, catalogued, and cared for, and where all who desire to refer to them are made welcome.

An exhibition of the technical books purchased was held in March and was attended by 707 persons. The Committee have engaged a sewer and repairer—

To carry out all repairs to books short of actual re-binding. A large proportion of modern books are so badly sewn and fastened into the covers that it is no uncommon thing for the sections of a new book to come loose after a single issue, and in quite a large proportion of instances, mainly novels of course, the sections come loose when there is still a good life before the covers. These books are now re-sewn and replaced in the old covers on the premises, instead of being re-bound. . . . Apart from any possible direct economy, the convenience of the new arrangement and the fact that the stock will be kept in better condition than hitherto will result, it is believed, in an appreciable saving.

Under "Cataloguing" we are told that:—"A somewhat new departure was the sending of a typed list of books on carpentry, joinery, and kindred subjects, to all the cabinet makers and carpenters in Croydon, with a circular letter asking that the list might be hung in a prominent position in the workshop and brought to the attention of the men." This seems a good idea, and capable of imitation and development.

Printed among the appendices to this report is Mr. Jast's report on the Bristol Conference of the Library Association, from which we extract two characteristic paragraphs:—

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Librarians, it would seem, are not practical men ; at any rate, Mr. Dewey's plan came to nothing from lack of support. Anything needing co-operative effort, either in America or in this country, is foredoomed to failure.

The *Library Assistant* for June is the annual report number. The Association seems in a very flourishing condition, both in its finances and in its work ; there is a balance in hand of over £12, and "an excellent programme of papers and discussions has been carried out," although in five cases out of fourteen the meetings have been pleasure parties rather than business gatherings.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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THE daily average issue of the **Cheltenham** Public Library has dropped from 457 in 1899-1900 to 434 in 1900-1.

The Committee regret having to show a decrease in the issue of books for home reading, and they experience the same difficulty in properly accounting for the decrease, as do the Committees of libraries in other towns, but the reasons generally assigned, namely, the excitement of the South African war, and the troubles in China and elsewhere can, in a measure, be held responsible for a part of the falling off . . . The reading of the newspapers has taken the attention of many readers of books . . . Trade generally has been brisk and received the attention of many who would otherwise have continued the perusal of books in the leisure hours not required for business. Again, it may be traced to the great and widespread devotion to out-door recreation, &c.

This is a very elaborate explanation for a decrease of 23 in the combined daily average issue. Two book exhibitions have been held in connection with this library ; one of decorative art work, the other of books, maps, plates, &c., relating to Cheltenham and neighbourhood. Four lectures were given in illustration of the subjects of the exhibition, and the combined attendance was 3,116.

The result was so gratifying to the Committee that they hope to repeat this new departure during the coming winter . . .

Their educational value is great, and with the aid of lantern slides promised by the S. Kensington Museum . . . on Architecture, Ironwork, Woodwork, and the like, will greatly add to the intelligent appreciation of the subjects.

We hope that success will continue to accompany the library's efforts in this direction. A selection of local prints from the library portfolios are to be framed and placed on screens in the Art Gallery. By the way, how are the prints in the portfolios arranged?—are they mounted or loose, arranged in a particular order or indexed? Perhaps Mr. Jones will let us know.

We have received a second edition of **Nottingham's** Class-List of Works in Foreign Languages. The original edition appeared in 1887, and consisted of twenty pages; that before us consists of forty pages. No less than thirty-five languages are represented. The entries are clear and full; only one point in the arrangement appears to us curious, the period after the author's surname and the comma after the christian name, e.g., "Commynes. Phillipe de, Mémoires." Nottingham has been fortunate enough to obtain the services of Prof. Weekley, M.A., a very eminent scholar of modern languages, to read the proofs of the French and German sections.

The **Hanley** Report, 1900-1, with supplementary catalogue appended, shows a "decided increase in the issues on all previous years," and makes a point of the fact that "for the sixth year in succession the year's work has been carried on without the loss of a single volume." Some of the entries in the supplementary catalogue are annotated; and very many more might be similarly treated with advantage. However, half a loaf is better than none; and if librarians have neither the time nor the space to annotate fully, they are well advised in annotating all the most important works they can.

The **Croydon** Report for 1900-1 is a very full account of the year's work, and more interesting than the bald statistical reports which do duty for so many libraries. The total issues were 351,661, an increase of 32,267 on last year's figures. The fiction percentage has dropped from 63.7 in 1898-9 to 60.6. A point is made of the rise of the reference issues from 6,022 in 1898-9 to 13,308 in 1899-1900 and 36,267 in 1900-1. These figures are not, we are assured "inflated by counting consultations of directories and such like works, and by the unrestricted issue of popular illustrated magazines like *The Illustrated London News*, *Punch*, &c."

If the figures quoted mean anything at all they point to the wisdom of the recent policy followed by the committee in regard to the reference library. Briefly, that policy has consisted in shelving the books as far as possible in open cases, and providing comfortable accommodation for the people who consult them. There are, of course, other factors which have contributed to the success achieved, but they are supplementary to the two named. No system of cataloguing, no popularising efforts can take the place of the books themselves, which are their own best advertisements, and bad accommodation or illiberal rules will keep away all but the most enthusiastic and determined readers.

The following paragraph on technical books is worthy of note :—

The committee have again to thank the Corporation for a grant of £300 for the purchase of technical books from the moneys available for technical education. They have already recorded their opinion that—"a representative and up-to-date technical library in the Public Library is an indispensable complement to the work of the Polytechnics,"—but to minister to the Polytechnic and School of Art student, though very important, is

by no means to cover the whole field of usefulness of a public technical library. That field is much wider; the professional man, the manufacturer, the mechanic and craftsman should all be catered for. They should then be urged to avail themselves of the literature placed within their reach. The people of this country can no longer afford to be ignorant of anything in manufacture and trade which it is possible to learn either in the school, shop, or study, and a wise expenditure on commercial and technical education will always include the provision of the latest and best books in art and science, especially applied science, located where they can be properly classified, catalogued, and cared for, and where all who desire to refer to them are made welcome.

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AN offer has been made to the Urban District Council of **Greater Newton Abbott** of No. 29, Wolborough Street as a site for the proposed Public Library, the vendor pointing out as a special inducement that he understands on excellent authority that the mother of Mr. Passmore Edwards, in whose memory the building was to be erected, was born and lived in the *adjoining* house. As a reason for adopting the site this strikes us as extremely funny.

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books. It was proposed that as opportunity offered the five district reading rooms should be converted into branch libraries, which would increase the total number to thirteen, these being so situated as to be convenient for the population of a considerable area. In this way, when the scheme is carried out, every district of the city will be provided with a free lending library. Speaking generally, each building will contain a lending library of 8,000 to 9,000 volumes, besides a small reference collection. The first to be opened will be that for Gorbals district. It will be housed on the first and second floors of the halls attached to the baths in Main Street, opposite the Princess's Theatre. The next library to be opened will be in the Kingston district. The site is that of the present police office in Paisley Road, opposite the foot of Pollok Street, and besides the library, the new building will contain public halls and a small police office. Block plans have been already approved, and Mr. A. B. Macdonald, the city engineer, is now preparing the complete plans. The provision of accommodation for the Cowcaddens and Woodside district library is still in abeyance. The *Glasgow Evening Times*, from which these facts are extracted, goes on to observe:—"For the benefit of other public-spirited millionaires it may be mentioned that a sum equal to Mr. Carnegie's gift would provide Glasgow with a much needed central library." We have pleasure in drawing the attention of our millionaire readers to this appeal.

**Battersea** has adopted a form of "open" access. At the back of the Lurline Gardens branch a piece of waste ground has been laid out with flower beds and paths, and provided with benches on which those who choose may take any magazine from the reading room and read. The same thing is done at the Kingsland library in Shoreditch.

THE **Wimbledon** Free Library Committee have passed the following resolution:—"That owing to the urgent need of more accommodation for books, and the frequent overcrowding of the reading-room, it is desirable that the library be enlarged, and that a special committee be appointed to consider what additional buildings should be erected, having regard to the finances of the library, and to report generally." Mr. Stanbury, in moving the resolution, said that there were 10,000 books in the lending department, and 5,000 in the reference department, and there were only shelves for 12,000. Of course, there were two or three thousand books always out in the lending department, but in the reference department room was so scarce that the librarian had to keep 382 volumes in his own room. With regard to the reading-room, the accommodation was not so bad in the day time, but in the evening, and especially on Saturday evening, the room was badly overcrowded.

THE London County Council have established a music library at **Brookwell Park**. The value of the contents is estimated at over £500.

MR. ALFRED **Errington**, chief assistant of the Sunderland Subscription Library, has been appointed chief assistant at the South Shields Public Library.

THE **Richmond** branch of the National Democratic League has passed a resolution protesting against the action of the Richmond Public Library Committee in refusing to have *Reynolds' Newspaper* placed on the library table.

No. 5 of a series of articles on "The Public Library," by Mr. **C. R. Wright**, Borough Librarian of Accrington, dealing with "The Great Fiction Question," appears in *The Accrington Observer* for May 11th. In it we learn that "the critics—absolutely unanimous for the only time on record—with one voice demand the blood of the novel reader—or the novelist—it doesn't seem to matter which." In the same issue there is a letter complaining that the ladies are compelled to enter and leave the reading-room at **Accrington** by the same door as the men. "Many of the young ladies, particularly those who 'are rather shy,' don't at all approve of this partnership of the sexes in the entrance to Accrington's public reading-room." What delicate, modest, and retiring creatures the young ladies of Accrington must be, to be sure! We had often wondered whether the painfully shy young damsels of our mothers' and grandmothers' days had utterly vanished from the face of the earth. It is gratifying to know that there are still some left—in Accrington.

"UPKEEP" of building is a heavy enough item in most Public Libraries, but when it has to include the keeping of the building above ground things, to employ a phrase we fancy we have seen before, have indeed come to a pretty pass. **Northwich** finds it expensive preventing its free library from disappearing into the bowels of the earth; and to meet this and similar cases a clause has been introduced by the Standing Committee of the House of Lords into the Public Library Amendment Bill, providing that in any borough or urban district, where the building is affected by subsidence of the ground, any expenditure incurred in repairing such structure shall not be reckoned as within the limit of the 1d. in the £. The clause, it is expected, will be accepted as part of the Bill.

PLANS for the Elder Library at **Govan** have been laid before the Parks Committee, and approved by Mrs. Elder. The estimated cost is £10,000. The work will be proceeded with as rapidly as possible.

THE **Stockton** Free Library is now lit by electricity. The arc lamp as in use at the Sunderland Free Library has been adopted. In this arrangement the light is first reflected on to the ceiling, and from the ceiling into the room, giving a beautifully soft and diffused glow. Members of the Library Association who attended the meeting at the Northampton Institute, London, some time since, will remember seeing the same arrangement in the art rooms there. It was generally admired.

IN the **Haverfordwest Telegraph** of May 16th is printed an essay on a Public Library for Haverfordwest, which was awarded the first prize in a competition. The writer thinks that "no rates would be needed, when we consider the many kind and generous gentlemen who would readily subscribe towards a foundation fund for a free library." But

what about upkeep? Let the supporters of the library movement in Haverfordwest by all means get such a foundation fund as is here suggested, but let them also go for the penny rate. Subscriptions are at best an uncertain source of income, and it is more consonant with the dignity and self-respect of a community, however small, to have its library rate-supported.

AT a meeting of the **Ranade** (India) Memorial Committee it was unanimously resolved to raise a fund for a Public Library in the city, to contain chiefly books on India, economics, sociology, and history. When shall we have a Public Library Bill for India?

**Pittsfield**, U.S., is to have a library building presented to it by Mr. Josiah H. Carpenter, a native of the city. The main part of the building, which will be in the classic style, is to have steel ceilings.

MR. HENRY OGLE, whose appointment to the librarianship of the **Ipswich** Public Library we chronicled last month, is to re-organise the library and establish a system of branches.

A BRANCH library, combined with a police and a fire station, is to be built in Dewsbury Road, **Leeds**. The library is to contain a spacious conversation and smoking-room, and the police station will have a flat roof above the cells, where the constables can sit and enjoy the fresh air. The building will have a frontage of 150 ft. to Dewsbury Road, and 70 ft. to Hunslet Hall Road. It will be two stories in height, stone being employed for the construction of the ground floor and brick above. The treatment is simple, what little character there is about the building being classical. The library will be entered from Dewsbury Road. To the right and left of the entrance will be rooms for the librarian and for ladies. The lending library, which will be two stories high, will be 28 ft. by 36 ft., and to the right will be a general reading-room 52 ft. by 27 ft. A point on the plan is that the attendant, standing behind the counter of the lending library, will have complete supervision over all the public rooms on that floor. On the upper floor, facing to Dewsbury Road, will be the conversation and smoking room, which will be so arranged that public meetings can be held in it, and there will be a private entrance for the speakers. This room is 45 ft. by 20 ft. Above the general reading-room there will be a large boys' reading-room. The estimated cost of the buildings is about £12,000.

THERE is an alarming story from Russia of the educative effect of libraries told by a correspondent in St. Petersburg. A peasant applied at the library at Bielovodsk for a book which would teach him "to live in truth." He was given a copy of the Gospels. On finding the text, "And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off," he proceeded to carry out the instruction literally. The fate of this unconscious disciple of Mr. Wackford Squeers opens up terrible possibilities. Librarians cannot obtain a certificate of moral stability from each applicant for books or confine the lending issues to blameless romances.—*Literature*.

THE Town Council of **Cumnock** have, in the plenitude of their meanness, refused the application of the Library Committee, struggling to keep their head above water, to be remitted the rent of two guineas, seeing that the Town Hall was now free of debt and brought in an income last year of £121. Truly the library at Cumnock is "a light shining in a dark place."

THE lowest tender received for the proposed free library and museum in New Road, **Chatham**, was for £4,198. This was more expensive than the Corporation bargained for, and the architect has been instructed to prepare plans for a cheaper building.

THE transformation of the old Museum building in William Street for service as the Free Public Library of **Brisbane**, has been completed, so far as the original contract is concerned. In the basement, concrete floors have been laid, and the space has been divided off into rooms for cataloguing, receiving and stamping, and repairing and bookbinding, leaving sufficient to provide large storage space, and three rooms for the use of the caretaker. Only this and the ground floor have been operated upon, the upper floor having been left until more space is required. At present the book-lift connects only the two lower floors, but ultimately it will be run right through. In the same way it is intended to have a staircase from the large hall, at the main entrance, to the upper floor. At present the old staircases are in use. This hall is enclosed with pine panelling and lead-lights, and by it the reading-room and library are practically divided, the former being on the right and the latter on the left. The reading-room has been provided with handsome pine tables and stands for newspaper files, bound volumes, and magazines, &c., while two sides of the library have a gallery, upon which, in bays, it is intended to place some patent book-cases (Lambert's Adjustable) now expected from England. These cases are specially prepared to resist the attacks of vermin, and will no doubt be found useful and handy. The interior has been picked out in suitable colours, and, with the polished pine of the panelling, the premises look particularly smart.

AT a meeting convened by the Mayor of **Devonport** in May, the following resolution was passed:—"That this meeting of the inhabitants of the county borough of Devonport cordially supports the Mayor and the Library Committee of Devonport in extending the hospitality of the town to the President (Sir Edward Fry, D.C.L.) and members of the Library Association of the United Kingdom on the occasion of their holding the Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Association in Devonport and Plymouth in August next." At the same meeting a representative reception committee was appointed, with Messrs. F. W. Hunt (Librarian, Devonport Public Library) and W. H. K. Wright as joint hon. secretaries.

THE decision of the **Douglas** Free Library Committee to exclude the *Daily News* from the news-room has been reversed by the Corporation. "Our view," says the *Daily News*, commenting on the matter, "is well

summed up in the observation of Councillor Thornley, who said he did not care a jot about the *Daily News*, but he objected to the Library Committee constituting themselves press censors."

THE *Chester Chronicle*, referring to the new catalogue of the **Chester** Free Library, says that "the merest glance at it shows what a stupendous task the librarian had to grapple with." It is not often the Press is so appreciative of the labour that a really first-class catalogue entails. We should be glad to receive a copy of what must evidently be a remarkable production.

THE modern magnification of the librarian as an important part of the library as the books receives no countenance from a writer in the *Rotherham Advertiser*, who, under the pen-name of "A Constant Borrower," addresses the editor with reference to the decision of the council not to appoint a librarian of the **Rotherham** Free Library from staff. "What is wanted," he observes, "at the free library is books, and not a new man. If a man wants a novel to read, he will not have a work on astronomy or geology thrust upon him, even by a man with B.A. or any other letters to his name." "A Constant Borrower" is evidently a thorough-going disciple of the mechanical school of librarians. But why waste money on a librarian at all? Mr. MacAlister, we fancy, refers somewhere or other to a new form of indicator, which, on pressing a button, shoots out the book the borrower doesn't want—on the principle of the penny-in-the-slot machines. This would be the very thing for "A Constant Borrower."

UP to comparatively recently (says the *Courier*) the undertaking of **Liverpool** to provide the outer districts with Free Public Libraries and news-rooms had not been anything like completely carried out. In the Toxteth Park outer district, certainly, a branch library has been opened in Lark Lane, whilst in the Walton district a similar library and news-room have been established in the premises known as the old Walton Town Hall. Wavertree and West Derby have not, up to the present, had their wants supplied under this head. The Corporation have, however, now seriously taken in hand the matter of discharging their obligations to Wavertree and West Derby in respect of branch free libraries and news-rooms. At a meeting of the Library Committee, held last week, a resolution was passed approving of plans and elevation of a proposed library and news-room for Wavertree, and authorising the city surveyor to have quantities taken out and estimates obtained for the erection of the building. The plans have, of course, yet to be submitted to the City Council at the June meeting. It is not expected, however, that there will be much opposition to the passing of them.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with what has been done in the direction of giving Wavertree a library and news-room of its own, it may be explained that the finance committee of the Corporation have purchased a splendid piece of land facing Picton Road, at present occupied by that old established local institution known as "Davies's Nurseries." Part of this land has been applied for by the

baths committee for the erection of public baths, the other portion having been allocated to the library committee for the purpose of the branch library and news-room above referred to. The plans for the Wavertree Library, prepared by Mr. Thomas Shelmerdine, the Corporation architect and surveyor, provide for the erection of a very commodious and pretty building. Thus the Wavertree district is in a fair way to have its desires satisfied so far as library and news-room facilities are concerned.

In regard to the West Derby district, there is every reason to believe that that favoured area will not long be left out in the cold, for it is proposed forthwith to erect a very ornate and capacious library and news-room at the corner of Green Lane and Lister Drive. The position selected is admirably central for the district to be served. It will not be long before the plans will be ready for consideration by the committee, and the work will be got in hand immediately the City Council have signified approval of the design. When the Wavertree and West Derby Branch Libraries are erected they will represent the fulfilment of the obligations in this regard of the old municipality of Liverpool towards the outer districts which it absorbed into itself in 1895.

It is appropriate in this connection to make some reference to the new branch library now in course of erection at the south end of the city. It is intended to supersede the present library at the lower end of Upper Parliament Street. The new library and news-room, which will stand on a magnificent site at the corner of Windsor Street and Upper Parliament Street, have been designed by Mr. Thomas Shelmerdine, the corporation architect and surveyor. The principal front elevation and main entrance will be in Windsor Street. A glance at the plans shows that upon entering the visitor will find himself in a large vestibule. Leading from the main central hall on the right is the ladies' reading-room, 56 feet 6 inches by 30 feet. On the left is the general or men's reading-room, 66 feet by 30 feet. In the centre of the building will be the lending department and book store. There will be upwards of 25,000 volumes of books in this branch library. From the vestibule there will be a staircase, by which access will be obtained to the basement, where is situated the boys' reading-room, 47 feet by 30 feet. In addition to the public accommodation above described, there will be a mezzanine or gallery floor which will provide accommodation for books, for the repair of books and for the staff. On the ground floor will be the librarian's room, and on the first floor an assistants' common room. The entire building will be of fireproof construction, and thoroughly well lighted, heated and ventilated. In the daytime the ladies' and men's large rooms will be lighted by natural light from the ends and roof. The external appearance of the building will be very pleasing. The main walls will be of red wire-cut Ruabon bricks, with Cefn stone dressings, and the roof will be covered with Cumberland green slates. The style of architecture adopted is the English Renaissance. The whole of the furniture will be of oak.

The erection of the building, the contract price for which is

upwards of £12,100, has been in progress now some weeks, and it will only be about twelve months before the library and news-room will be ready for opening.

THE **Bingley** Free Library Committee has joined the Library Association, and appointed the librarian as its representative

ABOUT £200 has been promised in support of the Free Library movement in **Ilkeston**.

**Middlesbrough-on-Tees.** Early in April Mr. A. E. Pease, who has lately returned from an expedition to Abyssinia, Somaliland, and adjacent countries, offered as a free gift to the Corporation of Middlesbrough his collection of North-East African birds and antelopes, numbering over 800 specimens. Whilst Mr. Pease undertook to have these set up and cased at his own expense, some little difficulty was felt as to their housing, the present premises rented for museum purposes being altogether inadequate. All difficulties have, however, been removed by the munificence of A. J. Dorman, Esq., J.P., of Grey Towers, Nunthorpe, who has offered to provide a natural history museum of sufficient size to accommodate not only the collection offered by Mr. Pease and that already located in the municipal buildings, but also for future additions; and to present the same to the town in memory of his son, who lost his life in the South African War. The comfort of readers at the central reading-rooms and library has been considerably increased by the recent installation of the electric light

At the luncheon at the opening of the Dick Institute at Kilmarnock, a description of which was contained in our number for June, Mr. F. T. **Barrett**, the Chief Librarian of Glasgow, gave the toast of "Success to the Dick Institute," and referred to the library in the following eloquent terms:—"I have often felt that people frequently, or even generally, fail to recognise all that a library is and means. The word falls readily from the lips, and often leaves no very great impression on the mind. But I venture to suggest to you that a library embodies one of the most august and pregnant ideas that the mind of man has conceived. The attentive mind sees in it more than a mere congregation of books. We perceive that these books represent and symbolise the whole course of human life and action. We realise that here, before our eyes, is assembled the witness and the record of all that the race has done or suffered. The greatness and the meanness, the weakness and the strength, the love and the hate, the effort, the achievement, or the defeat of the most notable of our kind in all ages and in all climes are here recorded for all coming time. May we not say that here is the true microcosm, here is indeed the world in little? But while glancing at these far-reaching significances of libraries, it is on this occasion more to the purpose to consider the effect of a library in a modern town community. Who can count or state in figures the benefits which this institute may confer on the



town? It cannot be done. But though the statement in actuarial form be impossible, the benefits are not therefore the less real. There may be in your town at this moment some youth of latent powers, but in adverse circumstances, to whom the institute will supply the needed opportunity and the needed impulse, and who may be by it started on a career of success for himself and of usefulness to the community. Probably the field of the most beneficial influence of the institute will be in the opportunities it will offer to the young. Every year large numbers of boys and girls leave the schools to enter on the business of life in occupations of various kinds. What is wanted is some influence, some opportunity, by means of which the education commenced in the school may be continued, the instruction consolidated and secured for life. This institute will, in great numbers of cases, supply this needed influence and opportunity, and it will prove a valuable auxiliary to all other agencies which have for their object the elevation of the moral and intellectual position of the youth of the town, many of whom will be by its means placed in a better position of preparedness for life's duties; while the smaller number who have been endowed with unusual gifts and unusual powers, may find here the means by which the cultivation of such powers and gifts may be commenced, and carried on until they are qualified to pass into more advanced fields of study. To all the institute will be a beneficial influence during the critical period following the cessation of school life, while character and habit are forming; and many hereafter will thank it for help in the avoidance of evil courses and in the adoption of correct and self-respecting principles and habits."

MISS BOLTON, late of Carbrook, has handed over to Mr. Macdonald, parish minister, of **East Plean**, near Falkirk, N.B., a valuable circulating library of about 500 volumes of general literature, for the use of the residents in the parish and district. The School Board of St. Ninians have kindly consented to give the books house room in the Public School, East Plean, and Mr. Towns, School-house, has cordially agreed to undertake the duties of librarian.

FOLLOWING the example of some of the London Public Libraries, the **Wolverhampton** Free Library Committee have reduced the age limit from fourteen to eleven.

THE **Suffolk** Institute of Archæology, located at Bury St. Edmunds, has decided not to transfer its valuable collection of Suffolk books to the Ipswich Free Library.

THE **Keighley** Free Library Committee, on the recommendation of Mr. Leonard Stokes, F.R.I.B.A. (the adjudicator), have accepted the design of Messrs. A. A. McKewan and J. A. Swan, of Newhall Street, Birmingham, for the proposed Free Library at Keighley, towards which

Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given £10,000. Messrs. McKewan and Swan's design received the premium award of £50. There were 146 designs submitted.

MR. WALTER H. **Pacy**, for six years senior assistant in St. Martin's Public Library, has been appointed librarian of the Beaconsfield Public Library, Cape Colony. Beaconsfield is a township adjacent to Kimberley, with a small but growing library capable of development.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### POSTAGE RATES FOR AUSTRALIA.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

SIR,—By the last English mail I received *inter alia* two cards and two letters each bearing a penny stamp and each marked "3d. to pay." These communications were alike in more respects than that of being insufficiently stamped. Each bore the name of an important Provincial Public Library in England, and each was an acknowledgment of the receipt of the Annual Report on the institution with which I am associated. Much misconception appears to exist about the rates of postage to Australia, and I venture to call attention to the matter, because it seems to me that librarians have little excuse for making such mistakes. Will you therefore permit me to mention, for the benefit of my four correspondents in particular, as well as for others who may require information upon the matter, that the postage to Australia from Great Britain is, for letters, 2½d. per half-ounce, and that private cards sent through the post are regarded by the authorities as letters, and the addressee is mulcted in the sum of 3d. when such cards bear only a penny stamp.

Yours faithfully,

AN AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIAN.

*Australia, May 1, 1901.*

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### THE VISIT OF THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION TO PLYMOUTH.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

SIR,—Will you allow me a little space in your next issue for the purpose of making a few preliminary observations on the forthcoming Annual Meeting to be held at Plymouth and Devonport during the last week in August next.

My reason for giving this timely notification is that our members may have the opportunity of arranging their plans some time ahead, and, as I hope, make up their minds to spend a portion of their annual vacation in the delightful neighbourhood of the West of England, and also that some of our American colleagues may be enabled to plan a trip to the old country on the occasion of this meeting in the "Mother Plymouth sitting by the sea."

Few better centres can be found than the area which includes the County Borough of Plymouth, the County Borough of Devonport, and the township of East Stonehurst, with an aggregate population of nearly 200,000.

It would be superfluous to enlarge upon the historic associations of the famous seaport of Plymouth as they must be familiar to all, nor need I do more than point to the fact that Devonport is one of the principal Naval Stations of the Empire, extensive additions to His Majesty's Dockyards being now in progress there which visitors may be privileged to see.

Those who were present at the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Library Association, held in Plymouth in 1885, will, I trust, have pleasing recollections of their visit; and they will, I feel sure, look forward to a repetition of their experiences of sixteen years ago. To others, who have joined the Association since that date, or who were unable to attend at that time, let me say that in the neighbourhood of Plymouth and Devonport will be found scenery which cannot be surpassed; that the towns lie on the shores of one of the most beautiful harbours in the world, and that from the far-famed Plymouth Hoe can be seen the blue waters of the English Channel on the one hand, and the rocky eminences of Dartmoor on the other. Rivers abound, therefore sea trips and river trips are very popular, while boating, fishing and bathing may be freely indulged in.

As to the towns themselves, although we are in an out of the way corner of England, we claim to be progressive. We have electric lighting, electric tramways, a magnificent water system, numerous parks, an unrivalled promenade—the Hoe; and at Devonport and Stonehouse are to be found all the life and local colour which is generally associated with a great naval station and a garrison town.

Hotels are numerous, well appointed, and the prices are moderate, private lodgings are easily obtainable, while there is ample provision for the amusement of those who come to visit us, should evening entertainment of that kind be required.

It is somewhat premature at this time to enter into details of our local programme; but I may say in a general way that the Association, coming as it does practically under the auspices of the Corporations of Plymouth and Devonport, will receive proper recognition, both officially and socially. The Corporation of Plymouth has generously placed a commodious suite of rooms in the Guildhall at the disposal of the Association, and the Corporation of Devonport will grant such facilities for the meeting in that town that may be necessary.

A large and thoroughly representative committee has been formed

whose duty it will be to see to the comfort of our visitors, to look after their accommodation, to organise excursions, and in other ways to ensure that the meeting is a success.

There will be three full sittings of the Association, from 10 to 1 (one being held at Devonport) for the reading of papers; and possibly an afternoon or evening sitting, for business. Time will be given to visit some of the libraries and institutions of the Three Towns, and facilities will be offered to members to visit others independently or in small parties. The Laboratory and Aquarium of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom will be open to members, as well as the Museum of the Plymouth Institution, and the temporary Municipal Museum at Beaumont House.

It is hoped, by arrangement with the Admiralty authorities, visits will be made to the dockyards and other Government establishments; including the Torpedo School (H.M.S. *Defiance*), or the *Cambridge* gunnery ship. Possibly also visits to one or more first-class line of battle-ships may be included in the programme.

Friday, 30th August, will be a record day in connection with the Plymouth Free Library, it having been formally opened on the 30th August, 1876; it is hoped, therefore, that the closing function of this year's meeting may in some way mark that event.

I may point out for the benefit of my friends at a distance that our locality is easy of access from all parts of the kingdom, being well served by the Great Western and London and South-Western Railways respectively; also that members from Scotland and the North of England have a choice of several routes: the most direct, perhaps, being by the Midland or the Great Western *via* Bristol.

Plymouth is only five-and-a-half hours distant from London by fast express, and only four hours from Bristol.

Plymouth may also be reached by sea from London on the one hand, or from Glasgow, Belfast, Dublin, and the South of Ireland on the other.

Again, our American visitors will find it easy to reach this port by one of several direct routes, particulars of which may be ascertained or any steamship agency. I need scarcely say that it will greatly facilitate our proceedings if we receive early intimation from those who intend to honour us with their presence.

My colleague, Mr. Fred. W. Hunt, Borough Librarian of Devonport, and myself will be pleased to give any assistance or information to those who may communicate with us, and later we shall be prepared to advise as to the choice of hotels or lodgings, or in any other matter which may tend to make the visit pleasant and profitable.

In conclusion, I would say that in this matter Plymouth and Devonport are acting in unison, and although only one name is appended to this communication, Mr. Hunt and myself are acting as joint local secretaries, *con amore*.

Yours very truly,

W. H. K. WRIGHT, *Borough Librarian.*

Plymouth, *May, 1901.*

## EDITORIALS.

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**District Associations.**

ONE of the features of the last few years' work of the Library Association has been the formation of district associations in various parts of the country. Everyone who desires to see the profession advance must welcome the formation of these bodies, which must help enormously in awakening and keeping alive enthusiasm amongst the librarians and committee-men in the parts over which their operations extend. All cannot come up to the meetings in London, many cannot attend the annual foregathering, but the district association is a means of bringing them into touch with their fellows, and, through them, with the library movement at large. The lot of the remote labourer is indeed a hard one. Friction is a very necessary condition of healthy life; one mind must rub against other minds, or stagnation almost invariably results. Not to have someone engaged in the same work, trying to overcome the same difficulties, meeting the same failures and successes, with whom to discuss your latest notion—though it be but to have it damned; or *his* latest notion to which you may mete out the same treatment—this is hard. Under such circumstances one's horizon is apt to narrow, and one's work to take on the aspect of something to be done for one's daily bread, merely, and therefore to be ill done. One is in danger of becoming one of that type of librarian who is content simply to run his library, to "hold on," just that and nothing more. Only the exceptionally strong type can remain unaffected by isolation, and keep the fire of enthusiasm burning even in solitude. Not of course that there is any such thing as real isolation, where the printed page may penetrate—and where does it not? This is why an Association Journal, circulating amongst all its members, is an essential of real corporate life. The treasurer's subscription demand note is not sufficing as a society's bond of union. But a magazine is at best a poor substitute for the magnetism of personal contact. Hence we hope that districts—and there are several yet in these islands—without a branch association will speedily set to work and form one. Wherever there are the proverbial "two or three" librarians within an area not unmanageably wide, and not coming within the operations of an existing centre—there is need for, and justification of, a district association. Such "outliers" of the parent society will strengthen, not weaken it. But they must work harmoniously with, and in due subordination to, the parent body, their orbits must move wholly within its constitution, and not form intersecting circles, or the results may be disastrous all round.

VOL. IV., No. 38, August, 1901.

## THE OLD ORDER AND THE NEW.

By EDWARD GREEN, *Librarian of the Akroyd Park Branch of the Halifax Public Libraries*

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THE progressive spirit so noticeable in many departments of municipal life has found its way into the Public Libraries, with the result that changes are taking place which, to some persons, appear almost revolutionary. The day has gone by when a Public Library is regarded merely as a store-house for books, provided by a generous municipality to minister to the pleasure-seeking public. Broader views obtain as to the functions of these institutions, and they are gradually gaining that position in the educational life of the nation which of right they are entitled to. The possibilities of well equipped and wisely administered libraries in furthering the education of the people are very great, but until quite recently much of their work has been minimised owing to the crude methods of administration in vogue.

To point out clearly what these are, and to compare them with the more enlightened ones adopted in a few of the newer libraries, it will be necessary to give a picture of the working arrangements of the average Public Library. In 95 per cent. of the Public Libraries in the United Kingdom one finds the system about to be described, which only differs slightly in detail in individual cases.

Under this system the books are arranged numerically, with little or only a very broad classification, and shelved in book-cases or stacks, which in many libraries tower to an excessive height. The primary object seems to be the accommodation of the greatest number of books in the smallest given space; thus rendering the library a great store-house certainly, but hardly a library as that term is understood by those who have at heart the greatest use that such an institution is capable of affording. To get at these books a reader has first to become possessed of a catalogue, or, if it be an old established library, a series of catalogues, and even then he is not sure of having a complete inventory of the stock, owing to the fact that a printed catalogue is out of date a few days after publication if the institution is, as it should be, constantly adding new books to its store. But even assuming the reader has a fairly up-to-date catalogue, his task of selecting a book is only then commencing. If a novel reader, and one addicted to the newer or more popular novels, he turns up his favourite author in the catalogue, and after deciding upon a particular book, at once walks to a mechanical contrivance called an indicator to ascertain if the book is in. If, as is most likely, it is out, another book has to be selected, and another reference to the indicator made. The second book happens to be out also, whereupon our worthy friend philosophically sets about finding another. When the third, fourth, and

would appear to be some mysterious influence in London which saps the interest of librarians in their Association. They come to London, and a blight—if they will excuse the word—descends upon them. Only thus can we explain the poor attendances, and the difficulty of obtaining papers, which cannot be set down wholly, though accentuated by, the crippling and go-as-you-please policy of those in authority. This being so, it is not easy to see how the London branch can avoid affecting adversely the monthly meetings which the Metropolis is still permitted to retain. This will be to attenuate the attenuated, until the ultimate result may be to render it almost impossible to get an ordinary meeting of the Association in London at all. And, as it is whispered that the provinces are already finding the meetings somewhat of a tax, we can give rein to fancy so far as to imagine the perplexed Council hawking the monthly meetings round the Colonies.

But, seriously, whatever effect the branch may have upon the Association, it must be recognised that it is the perfectly legitimate outcome of circumstances for which those who have engineered the movement are not responsible. Deprived of the opportunity of meeting together once a month, and discovering it may be, as is the way with us humans, the value of the privilege only when it has been withdrawn, they were compelled to choose one of two alternatives, to form another society, or to form a branch of the existing society. And in choosing the latter they did the right and proper and wise thing, though we may be permitted to regret the blunder which explains and justifies the birth of a branch where is, as it were, the root of the tree.

A London branch, which is really representative of the London members, would be by far the largest of the branches, and its performance should be commensurate with the extent of its opportunities. Its task would be to do, what the Association meetings have failed to do, to bring together for discussion and mutual help the library workers of London. It is a well-known fact that men in almost adjacent districts in London are often as far, nay further, apart than men with forty or fifty miles between them in the country. There are simply dozens and dozens of librarians in and around London who are never seen by their colleagues—save, perhaps, once a year, when they run across one another in Manchester or Bristol. If the new branch can attract these men it will not only strengthen the Association, but help forward the evolution of a real professional unity.

Let us all try and realise that in our capacities as librarians it is ours to live not for our salaries alone, nor for our libraries alone, but also for our work and our profession generally. We cannot do this adequately if we hold aloof from one another, content merely to perform our personal work. Admitted that the "paper" may be dull, the discussion aimless, the "getting there" and "getting back" a waste of time. These things are not all. It is the personal contact which is vital, the getting more or less *en rapport* with men whose ideas are not ours, it is this which gives us breadth of view and sympathy, rubs down our angularities, promotes good feeling, and enables us to give as well as to receive.

to preserve alphabetical sequence. With this style of catalogue anyone wishing to learn the contents of a library on, say agriculture, would have to turn up, beside the heading agriculture, all the divisions of that great subject, such as cattle, soils, farm buildings, drainage, crops, &c.

Having described the system in operation in many of the older libraries, it will now be useful to review the enlightened policy of some of the newer and more progressive ones. First and foremost comes the important feature of open access, or, to give it its correct name, "Safe-Guarded Open Access." Whilst librarians are very much divided in opinion as to the merits of allowing readers to have free access to the shelves, yet it is satisfactory to note that whenever open access has been properly organised it has proved a great success. And it is also satisfactory to find that several new libraries, whose librarians have been trained in the "barrier" school are adopting the system. Of the older libraries it is impossible to say exactly how many are considering the advisability of re-organising for open access, but for some time the question has been under consideration with us.

An essential feature of open access is, of course, a good classification of the books on the shelves, and the most suitable classifications for this style of library appear to be Dewey's Decimal Classification, and Brown's Adjustable. The systematic classification found in the open access libraries contrasts strongly with the comparative absence of classification where the closed system prevails. In the safe guarded open access library a reader has complete access to the whole of the books in the library, and is at liberty to pick and examine as he wishes. Comparing his selection under this system with that of the closed system before described, the reader, if in search of a particular novel by a given author, simply walks to the shelf appropriated to that author's name, and a glance not only tells him whether the particular book he wants is in, but also shows him exactly what (if any) books of that same author are in. He may also see the condition of the books—a great boon to those who are fastidious and object to reading much thumbed volumes. If the shelf is empty he knows at once that all that particular author's books are out, and is saved the ridiculous perambulation necessary under the indicator system. But the advantages of open access of course are not confined to the fiction reader. Those who use the library for more solid reading benefit in an even greater degree. He who is studying, say Sociology, or some branch of that science, finds all the books bearing on it placed together, so that he may take down for examination and comparison as many as he wishes. And he does this without inconveniencing either the staff or his fellow readers. Another strong point in favour of this system of open access is that a reader has the general resources of the library more freely brought to his notice, with the likelihood of his interest being aroused in branches of study that had been previously quite unknown to him.

With open access readers are, to some extent, independent of catalogues, as the books themselves form their own catalogue, and what



and it is perfectly reasonable that librarians should ask that a good book at a high price should be sent forth into the world well and strongly bound.

However, there is perhaps some consolation to be derived from the fact that Continental books are many degrees worse than ours. Our bindings are not what they ought to be, but they are better than paper backs, at any rate. What a nuisance it must be in Continental libraries to be obliged to send away every batch of new books to the binder before they can be placed upon the shelves, not to speak of the financial side of the matter! We trust the attempt to introduce the custom over here—notably in a well-known series of richly illustrated historical monographs—will not succeed. We do not fancy the public would take to it kindly; certainly the libraries would not. But the long-suffering book-buyer across the Channel will buy and read his favourite author in a type which could only be matched in a newspaper office in this country, and which in a book—and not a cheap book either—is calculated to give actual physical pain to a sensitive reader. In Germany they commit the crime—for it is no less—of stapling expensive works, an alternative to stitching only employed with us, as a rule, in pamphlets, and periodicals which are presumed to be bound as the volumes are completed.



## INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS.

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### THE VIEWS OF LONDON LIBRARIANS.

#### II.

Mr. H. D. ROBERTS, St. Saviour's:—

Mr. Roberts is at present on his holidays, and has asked me to inform you that, under proper restrictions, he sees no reason why borrowers' tickets should not be made interchangeable throughout the Metropolis. There are, however, many difficulties in the way, and much attention would have to be paid to details to make the proposal a successful one. That it would be of great benefit to many people there can be no doubt, for, in numbers of cases, persons living in one Borough may be nearer the library in another Borough than the one which, under present conditions, they are compelled to use.—  
B. M. HEADICAS, Assistant Librarian.

Mr. H. S. NEWLAND, Harlesden:—

The suggestion is well-nigh impossible on the face of it.

We have the difficulty of the various charging systems, and also the forms of tickets used in connection therewith. In fact, apart from any other objection, this proposal would necessitate one general code of rules, form of charging, life of ticket, and, in short, one universal method of administration so far as this department was concerned.

The difficulty of preventing loss and fraud would be insurmountable. Take, for instance, a person becoming possessed (by means known to librarians) of another's ticket. If it were presented at another library, the result would be (even putting the question of evil intention aside) most unsatisfactory, to say the least, to all concerned, with one exception.

It lays itself open to innumerable difficulties, such as alteration of addresses, removals, expiry of tickets; and, although I am not, as a rule, inclined to harshly judge my fellow-man, I would not support a proposal which lays itself open to many and unavoidable abuses.

These remarks are written on the spur of the moment, but it is unquestionably one of these matters that can be decided by a Public Librarian with one word—impossible.

Mr. F. E. CHENNELL, Willesden Green:—

Willesden is outside the London area, and is not affected by the proposal of the Battersea Library Committee. Seeing, however, that our district possesses three libraries, in each of which are books not common to the three institutions, I think we afford a slight argument in support of Battersea's proposition. Our libraries are two miles distant from each other. A ticket issued at any one of the libraries is honoured by the other two. It is found that many readers, who do not find the volume they require upon the shelves of the library nearest their home, will, undeterred by the distance between the institutions, go to one of the other libraries which possesses it. It is possible that the difference in the systems of issue in vogue at the various Metropolitan libraries may give rise to some slight inconvenience, but the difficulties, I conceive, are not insuperable.

The new scheme, if adopted, will certainly do away with that anomalous condition of affairs under which a borrower, because of the geographical position of the street in which he resides, is compelled to borrow at a different library to that which his *vis-à-vis* neighbour uses. On the other hand, I can imagine that the introduction of the new scheme will create a new roll of borrowers at each library, inasmuch as 90 per cent. of our readers prefer to use the institution nearest their homes, and that of course, if the Battersea proposal were accepted, would not always be the library supported by their own Council. I can see no valid objection to the proposal. It is, in my opinion, worthy of serious consideration, as indeed is any suggestion which tends to invite the public to a freer use of the institution they themselves support

Mr. H. ROWLATT, Poplar :—

In reply to yours of the 5th inst., I am of opinion that, unless the whole of the libraries were placed under one authority, the scheme could not be successfully carried out ; but I do not see any objection to one library lending any special book to another library for the use of a borrower. But the transactions should, I think, be through the librarians, and not by making tickets interchangeable.

Mr. HENRY BOND, Woolwich :—

I welcome the proposal most cordially as a step towards a desirable goal—that of further facility in the borrowing of books, and towards that union of forces which is strength, as well as towards making all the London libraries the common property of all London people. The first thing to do is to discuss the subject together, and thus try to lead to a solution of the practical difficulties of which not a few exist at present, and which unsolved would prevent it working very satisfactorily. Before any ideal in this direction can be realised *all* the Metropolitan Boroughs must put the Libraries' Acts into operation which is also a desideratum, and one almost as great as the removal of the penny rate limit.

Mr. THOMAS ALDRED, St. George-the-Martyr :—

In reply to your letter, I may say that I consider the Battersea proposal a commendable step in the direction of co-ordination of Public Library work in the Metropolis.

In the first place, it should be generally known that Public Libraries have always placed news and magazine-rooms and reference departments at the disposal of any person, irrespective of the district he lives or works in, and not even barring rate-payers of districts which refuse to adopt the Library Acts. All then that is now sought is to extend the exchange of privilege to lending departments. It is obvious that under such a policy the public would gain many advantages, to say nothing of the convenience of using the library which is nearest the home of any person. And, as these advantages may be brought about at the cost to each borough of a few pence per year, there is every reason to hope that public representatives and economists will support the proposal, when it is proved to them that the scheme is workable.

As may be inferred from remarks in my paper on book selection and rejection, and the letter which appeared in *London* some time ago, I am strongly in favour of many present restrictions in library work being removed. Undoubtedly the interchange of lending department privileges is *practicable*, but some difficulties lie in the way of the universal recognition of tickets. Rules of the various libraries do not coincide either in exact wording or in many practical details ; as, for instance :

- (a) The period a ticket is allowed to be in force.
- (b) The period allowed for reading books.
- (c) The penalties for non-return of books within the specified time.
- (d) The qualifications and liabilities of guarantors.

It is therefore perfectly plain that a borrower or guarantor is only legally amenable to the rules of the library to which his signature was appended. And, as there is little or no hope of library authorities agreeing on a universal code of rules, and as it is doubtful whether it is desirable or good policy to make a guarantor liable for a borrower's "failings" under more than one library system, I venture to suggest a slight modification of the general proposal, viz., "That TICKETS be not interchangeable." In support of this suggestion I ask librarians to consider a few practical details. Ordinarily only one work may be taken out upon one ticket; so that, under the universal recognition of tickets scheme, special provision would have to be made to meet cases where a borrower does not leave his ticket as a pledge for a borrowed book, as a ticket number (or even the ticket) does not give a librarian all the information he occasionally requires. Again, owing to the different charging systems in use, it might be found necessary to make out a new ticket; indeed, it is highly probable that this would generally be done. I therefore feel that it would be asking but little if persons not ordinarily qualified to borrow books at a particular library were requested to get the ordinary voucher form filled up. If the intending borrower does not know any person in the district, he would probably have no difficulty in finding a voter in another part of London who would become his guarantor. It is therefore desirable (even under the present *régime*) for libraries to agree to accept the guarantee of a person enrolled as a voter in any part of London. It would, however, be costly for every library to obtain a complete set of the voting registers. To surmount this difficulty, probably the best plan would be to send a query on a return postcard to the librarian of the district in which the signee was said to be a voter, as follows:—

"Is —, of —, on the current list of voters? Please reply by return mail."

An answer to such a question could be obtained within a day, and the cost of obtaining this information is the only expense a borough would be put to in carrying out the proposal now under consideration.

As regards liability in the event of a borrower failing to return a book, it might be arranged for each library, on the commendable exchange or "give-and-take" principle, to bear its own losses, seeing that such would be of rare occurrence.

It is perhaps well for those persons who object on principle to all suggested innovations to be informed that the is comparatively ancient history. Manchester and Salford have

## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*

THE **Brighton** Public Library Committee have recommended, and the Corporation have adopted, the open access system for the non-fiction, and an indicator for the fiction, for the new library in course of erection. This is the result of the visit of a deputation consisting of members of the committee and council to several London libraries, including Croydon, Camberwell, Brixton, Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Bishopsgate Institute, West Ham, and St. George's, Hanover Square.

DR. GORDON STABLES has been writing in the papers on the subject of **Public Libraries and Disease**. He starts off by saying: "It is two years since *I* first called attention to the dangers of the Public Libraries, and *my appeal is being listened to*, on the other side of the herring pond at all events." [Italics ours.] It will be news for librarians and committee-men that Dr. Stables called their attention two years ago to a subject which has engaged their attention for many times two years back. And doubtless the special committee appointed by the Public Library Board of Chicago to consider the question of book disinfection will be pleased to learn that they have heard the voice of Dr. Stables calling to them over the Atlantic billows, arousing them to the New Terror. "The English," proceeds Dr. Stables, "are wondrous slow." Is it for us to inform the doctor that a great many, if not most, of the Public Libraries of the "old country" have arrangements in force by which the persons suffering from infectious diseases are notified to the librarian, and the books they may have disinfected before being permitted to circulate again? Indeed, many libraries go to the length of destroying books which have been in infected houses. The paper in which we saw this paragraph is published in a district where the regulations of the local Public Library on this matter are of a very stringent kind! Dr. Stables is apparently unaware, by-the-bye, that the results of prior investigations into the question as to whether books do (not whether they can) carry infection, seem to be in direct conflict with the finding of the Chicago Committee.

AT a meeting of the **Bridgend** Council it was decided to adopt the Libraries' Act, and a working committee was appointed.

A **Cromwell** Library has been formed at Naseby, and located in the village reading-room. It contains 114 volumes.

without reflecting upon the services or actions of any officer. As thus. They are chronic malcontents. They are trying to break up the Association. It is a dodge for disappointed candidates to worm themselves into office. And so on.

On the question of the resignation of the honorary secretary, there is little to be profitably said. It is difficult to understand it, and we can only regret that such a course has seemed to him the only possible one. The Association owes him much, and we hope he will not be permitted to relinquish his office without some tangible recognition of his services.

The Council have now the opportunity of doing what they will be bound to do sooner or later—that is, of appointing a paid secretary. The secretarial work of the Association is far too heavy and exacting for any but a man able and willing to make a very considerable sacrifice of time to undertake. The Association can afford to pay such an officer a proper remuneration. Relieved of the burden of detail and clerical work, we entertain no doubt that the Council will experience no particular difficulty in adequately filling the important post of honorary secretary.

We believe some members, to whom the recent events have taken on exaggerated proportions, talk of a Crisis in the affairs of the Library Association. There is no Crisis. There is only an Opportunity.



## BRANCH LIBRARIES & DELIVERY STATIONS.

By EDWARD GREEN, *Librarian of the Ackroyd Park Branch of the Halifax Public Libraries.*

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**I**N the past the custom has been to develop the central library without sufficient regard to the branches, and where that is the case the library arrangements of a town cannot be satisfactory. A wise management allows for the systematic progress of both central and branches.

Many librarians and committees regard branch libraries as a nuisance, and only to be tolerated as a necessary evil, believing that where they have to be maintained the efficiency of the central institution is impaired. Branches must of course to some extent take from the central library, firstly as regards maintenance, and secondly by securing a proportion of its readers. But in the latter connection the effect is not so great as many imagine, for it must be remembered that with the provision of suitable branches many more readers are enrolled than if only a central library existed. It has been found in practice that to put

a library in any given district is to produce readers. Indeed, it is impossible to satisfactorily administer the Public Libraries Acts in any large town with only one distributing centre.

In comparing the relative merits of branches and delivery stations, it will be useful to give an outline of the working of each. Delivery stations are often worked by having selections of books transferred from the central library temporarily to the outer districts, and changed occasionally. From these readers make their choice at certain specified times. A variation of this plan is for readers to hand in lists to the delivery station attendants, and call later for their books. Under this latter scheme the readers' lists are forwarded to the central library, and from them the books wanted are selected.

The principal objection to the first of these arrangements is the limited selection offered. The volumes, being drawn from the central stock, are rarely satisfactory as regards either quantity or quality, as few librarians are disposed to cripple their principal library by placing large numbers of the best books at delivery stations; and if obsolete books are sent, they prove just as unacceptable to readers in one district as another.

The objection to the second arrangement is that it will often happen that all the books on a reader's list are out, and therefore the only alternative for the librarian is to either make a selection himself, bearing in mind the character of the books listed, or else return the list to the delivery station attendant, marked "all out," and so cause the reader to be without books until another day.

So far as my experience goes, I have little faith in delivery stations. Much better results, of course, can be got from a few moderate-sized and properly administered branches.

When establishing branches one of the principal dangers to be guarded against is that of creating a great number of small pettifogging concerns that are of no use, and yet a drain upon the library income. As a general statement, it may be said that no great selection can be got in a library of under 3,000 volumes, and selection there must be if the library is to do useful work.

Recently, when making a tour of some of the principal libraries, I noted some valuable features affecting branches in connection with the Croydon Public Libraries. Here they have telephonic communication between all the libraries, and the use of this to borrowers must be very great. Anyone wanting a certain book at, say, the central library, and finding it out or not in stock, may have inquiry made as to whether the same volume is available at any of the branches, with instructions given for it to be retained at that library where it happens to be in until the reader fetches it. This means that a borrower is saved a useless tramp to the branches if the book is not obtainable at any. Another feature in connection with the same libraries is the system of cataloguing adopted, which makes one entry available for the whole of the libraries. In each entry in the catalogue a letter in heavy type precedes a location number, and this indicates the library (or libraries) possessing the book. This is a great advantage. And

to preserve alphabetical sequence. With this style of catalogue anyone wishing to learn the contents of a library on, say agriculture, would have to turn up, beside the heading agriculture, all the divisions of that great subject, such as cattle, soils, farm buildings, drainage, crops, &c.

Having described the system in operation in many of the older libraries, it will now be useful to review the enlightened policy of some of the newer and more progressive ones. First and foremost comes the important feature of open access, or, to give it its correct name, "Safe-Guarded Open Access." Whilst librarians are very much divided in opinion as to the merits of allowing readers to have free access to the shelves, yet it is satisfactory to note that whenever open access has been properly organised it has proved a great success. And it is also satisfactory to find that several new libraries, whose librarians have been trained in the "barrier" school are adopting the system. Of the older libraries it is impossible to say exactly how many are considering the advisability of re-organising for open access, but for some time the question has been under consideration with us.

An essential feature of open access is, of course, a good classification of the books on the shelves, and the most suitable classifications for this style of library appear to be Dewey's Decimal Classification, and Brown's Adjustable. The systematic classification found in the open access libraries contrasts strongly with the comparative absence of classification where the closed system prevails. In the safe guarded open access library a reader has complete access to the whole of the books in the library, and is at liberty to pick and examine as he wishes. Comparing his selection under this system with that of the closed system before described, the reader, if in search of a particular novel by a given author, simply walks to the shelf appropriated to that author's name, and a glance not only tells him whether the particular book he wants is in, but also shows him exactly what (if any) books of that same author are in. He may also see the condition of the books—a great boon to those who are fastidious and object to reading much thumbed volumes. If the shelf is empty he knows at once that all that particular author's books are out, and is saved the ridiculous perambulation necessary under the indicator system. But the advantages of open access of course are not confined to the fiction reader. Those who use the library for more solid reading benefit in an even greater degree. He who is studying, say Sociology, or some branch of that science, finds all the books bearing on it placed together, so that he may take down for examination and comparison as many as he wishes. And he does this without inconveniencing either the staff or his fellow readers. Another strong point in favour of this system of open access is that a reader has the general resources of the library more freely brought to his notice, with the likelihood of his interest being aroused in branches of study that had been previously quite unknown to him.

With open access readers are, to some extent, independent of catalogues, as the books themselves form their own catalogue, and what



is more, a catalogue of books immediately available. The catalogues issued by open access libraries take the form of class-lists, the entries being arranged systematically in the order of the books on the shelves. The value of these lists lies mainly in the fact that they are something more than mere lists; they make some attempt to give concise information on the books they deal with, thus making them of real educational value to the student and intelligent reader. The superiority of these class-lists to the dictionary catalogue is apparent to all library reformers.

In all progressive libraries, in addition to printed catalogues, a good card catalogue is considered indispensable. The perfection to which card catalogues have been brought enables a reader, or a number of readers to consult them with facility. The value of being able to find out, without searching through a number of catalogues, exactly what a library contains to date cannot be over estimated.

In several other respects progress is being effected, but free access to the books seems the most natural and necessary foundation of all such efforts.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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THE June *Library Journal* is undoubtedly what one of the editorials calls it, a "library training number." It contains an article by Miss M. W. Plummer, Director, Pratt Institute Library, Brooklyn, on the subject, and an anonymous article on "Library Examinations and Methods of Appointment." Miss Plummer mentions that there were at least three methods of managing libraries in the United States:—(1) By main strength, each librarian evolving a system of his own from his inner consciousness and that of his board, committing the same natural mistakes committed by the majority of librarians before him, and finally sitting helplessly down in the confusion thus created; (2) management by imitation; (3) management by taught cataloguers, who were not librarians.

It was surely time for something to be done. Librarians and their boards were overrun with applications, written and oral, for positions. They found themselves, very often, saddled with incompetents, with assistants of poor education and no refinement. Persons of reading tastes, who would have liked to use libraries, were driven away by the affronts they met at the library from ill-bred young persons, secure in their positions by reason of influence. . . . It was natural therefore that the first effort, after broad training for librarianship, should meet with encouraging success from the beginning, as it certainly did. . . . A fear which existed in some quarters that the assistant who

had learned by experience would be crowded out by the school-trained assistant, was not justified in those cases where assistants were intelligent and ready to adapt themselves to the new demand.

Supporters of the "closed door," please note. The following is an example of the school method :—

For the most part these are the methods of any graduate school—lectures, quizzes, seminars, the propounding of original problems for solution and presentation in class, recitation to show the accomplishment of assigned work, never as a re-rendering of what has been given out in lectures, written reviews and examinations, as well as oral, suggestive, and inspirational, as well as technical, talks from visiting lecturers—and, to finish—actual work in the library connected with the school; these are the means by which the training is accomplished. Field work, in the form of visits to libraries, publishing houses, and book dealers, book auctions, binderies, &c., is always included.

The course lasts for a year, in some cases two. There is nothing like this in England, unfortunately; there will be—must be—in the course of time. We English at least claim to be as progressive as the Yankees, yet in the United States an aspirant to our profession may preface or supplement his practical library training by a course of instruction by experts in every part of the work—not parrot-style learning, but instruction stimulating ideas and thorough discussion of methods; while in England we are to be satisfied with a professional examination which only two or three candidates attend, with a few Wednesday afternoon classes, and with a Summer School which does not last a week. The question may be asked: Are there any authorities which can afford to pay highly trained librarians? Well, probably very few, but then this is partly the fault of the librarians themselves, who will not strive, through their Association, for the removal of the *rd.* limit. The argument has been used that the time is not ripe for such action, that it would seriously affect the adoption of the Acts in the few benighted districts still despising libraries. There is, perhaps, some point in the argument; but it is equally strong to argue that until a more substantial income is secured for our libraries, they are necessarily less efficient, and less able to demonstrate to the public their exceeding value; while librarians are paid badly, no particular training being required of them, and the door of the profession is open to all and sundry who can make a bare catalogue entry and issue a book. For our own part, we are of opinion that the slowness of the expansion of the Public Library movement is due to the bad example set by those libraries which have totally inadequate incomes, and, in consequence, cannot employ thoroughly trained staffs.

The article on "Library Examinations and Methods of Appointment" gives specimen examination papers of the Public Libraries of Los Angeles (Cal.), San Francisco, Indianapolis (Ind.), Cleveland (O.), Minneapolis (Minn.), Detroit (Mich.), Cincinnati (O.), Pittsburgh

(Carnegie Library), Allegheny (Pa.) (Carnegie Library), Newark (N.J.), Boston, Hartford (Conn.), and of the Webster Library of the East Side House, New York. This number also contains the programme of arrangements for the Waukesha Conference of the A.L.A., July 3rd-16th. Numerous interesting subjects will come under discussion.

A continuation of "Some Things of General Interest in the Bristol Medical Library," by Mr. L. M. Griffiths, is the principal article in the *Library Association Record* for July. In the "Causerie" there is a note on the A.L.A. Conference at Waukesha, which states the opinion that the literary or "bookish" character of the papers to be presented "is quite as it should be."

It is the literary and "bookish" side of library work which needs to be more cultivated, and not the purely technical and mechanical sides of our craft, some aspects of which have been discussed already *ad nauseam*. This change in the American Library Association programme is the more striking to the members of the Library Association on account of the protests that have been raised from time to time against the literary character of some of the papers read at our own annual meetings. We must have, as a matter of course, the technical side of our work presented and discussed, but not to the exclusion of the more important departments of bibliography and literature.

The writer of this complacent note fails to see a very obvious difference. Hitherto the A.L.A. conferences have been largely devoted to *technical* papers, and this year the programme is "markedly changed" in character. Hitherto the L.A. conferences have been largely devoted to *literary or "bookish"* papers, and a "marked change" in this practice, even for one year, would be distinctly refreshing. We are, of course, aware that some technical matters have been treated *ad nauseam*, but others, of first-rate importance, have seldom or never been discussed.

*Public Libraries* for June contains the following articles: "Libraries in Illinois State Institutions for the Dependent and Delinquent," by Hervey White; "Clippings for the Library," by Miss E. C. Fergus; "Sunday School Libraries Again," by Miss E. L. Foote; and much more interesting matter. The "clippings" which Miss Fergus would like to see preserved are newspaper paragraphs of local interest, city documents, reports of the superintendent of schools, church bulletins, play-bills of all theatre entertainments, &c.; items of literary news, particularly obituary notices of writers and other public men, good criticisms or reviews, and so forth. Miss Fergus recommends that pamphlets should be prepared for circulation as follows:—

It is very easy to cut a piece of manilla paper an inch larger each way than the opened pamphlet, paste a hem all around, and sew through the middle of the pamphlet and the cover, and write the author and the title on the outside. A card may or may not be put in the catalogue for it, but I say put at least a shortened subject card, which is very little trouble to make, and then the pamphlet can be found by anyone needing

it. Put it on the shelf, and let it circulate like any other book. If there are several pamphlets on the same subject, make a cover big enough for the largest, and put them all in it, having the tops even, that there shall be no nice little nests for the dust to settle in.

The clippings are mounted on sheets of paper, cut to a certain size: if a clipping is too large, it is divided and pasted on several sheets, which are fastened together; several small scraps may be mounted on one back—if on the same subject, but not otherwise. Thus mounted on accurately cut backs, they may be arranged in any order, and easily referred to.

The annual report of the librarian of the Somerville (Mass.) Public Library, quoted in this number, contains the following remarks:—

I hope the day will come when the library can take the lead in supplying good lectures to the people. Let it be an intellectual and inspirational force along all lines of human thought. It should be a purveyor to the literary, artistic, scientific, and æsthetic needs of the city. It should not only supply these needs when developed, but should be one of the most powerful of the agencies in developing these needs. It should be animated by the missionary spirit of making intellectual living contagious. It must reach more people. In the early days of the Public Library its first and greatest commandment was, Get books. That day has passed; and to-day the great commandment is, Get the books to the people. That should be the objective point of our campaigns of the future. It is not enough that a few families should come into the library; the library itself should knock at the door of every family.

With all of which we cordially agree.

The *Library Assistant* for July, besides news, contains one article, "Holiday Hints: Glasgow and its Exhibition," by P. G. D.



THE recently appointed librarian of Kirkcaldy is leaving, although the library is not yet opened, and Miss **Macbean** has been appointed librarian in his stead.

THERE is an interesting article on the **Planning of Free Libraries**, by G. H. Bidly, in the *Local Government Journal* for June 15th, though rather general than technical. The suggestion is made that in many libraries a most desirable addition would be a refreshment-room. It has often struck us as strange that, so far as we know, not a single free Public Library in the country has such a department. And why not?

THE **Llandrindod Wells** District Council have decided against the adoption of the Public Libraries Act.

## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*

THE **Brighton** Public Library Committee have recommended, and the Corporation have adopted, the open access system for the non-fiction, and an indicator for the fiction, for the new library in course of erection. This is the result of the visit of a deputation consisting of members of the committee and council to several London libraries, including Croydon, Camberwell, Brixton, Chelsea, Clerkenwell, Bishops-gate Institute, West Ham, and St. George's, Hanover Square.

DR. GORDON STABLES has been writing in the papers on the subject of **Public Libraries and Disease**. He starts off by saying: "It is two years since *I* first called attention to the dangers of the Public Libraries, and *my appeal is being listened to*, on the other side of the herring pond at all events." [Italics ours.] It will be news for librarians and committee-men that Dr. Stables called their attention two years ago to a subject which has engaged their attention for many times two years back. And doubtless the special committee appointed by the Public Library Board of Chicago to consider the question of book disinfection will be pleased to learn that they have heard the voice of Dr. Stables calling to them over the Atlantic billows, arousing them to the New Terror. "The English," proceeds Dr. Stables, "are wondrous slow." Is it for us to inform the doctor that a great many, if not most, of the Public Libraries of the "old country" have arrangements in force by which the persons suffering from infectious diseases are notified to the librarian, and the books they may have disinfected before being permitted to circulate again? Indeed, many libraries go to the length of destroying books which have been in infected houses. The paper in which we saw this paragraph is published in a district where the regulations of the local Public Library on this matter are of a very stringent kind! Dr. Stables is apparently unaware, by-the-by, that the results of prior investigations into the question as to whether books do (not whether they can) carry infection, seem to be in direct conflict with the finding of the Chicago Committee.

AT a meeting of the **Bridgend** Council it was decided to adopt the Libraries' Act, and a working committee was appointed.

A **Cromwell** Library has been formed at Naseby, and located in the village reading-room. It contains 114 volumes.

A SUB-COMMITTEE of the **Blackpool** Public Library has been formed to consider how the coming-of-age of the library, which was twenty-one years old on June 21st, shall be celebrated. We note that the open access system has been very successful, and that no book has been stolen since it was inaugurated.

AT a recent meeting of the **Lincoln** City Council, the Museums and Gymnasiums Acts were unanimously adopted. The Grey Friary, a quaint and historic building erected by the Franciscans in the thirteenth century, has been purchased by the Corporation for use as a museum building; and here will be appropriately housed the large number of antiquities, Roman remains, &c., that have been unearthed at various times, in this historic city.

THE **Wallasey Chronicle** has started a series of articles on "Books in the Free Library," with a view of stimulating interest in good reading.

THERE is an interesting sketch of the **Selkirk** Subscription Library, by T. Craig-Brown, in a recent issue of *The Southern Reporter*, which has just passed away at the ripe old age of 132 years. It was in 1772 that the library was founded, with Mr. John Lang, the great-grandfather of Mr. Andrew Lang, as clerk.

THE Public Works Department of **New South Wales** has been urged to select a site for and erect new buildings for the Public Library, and the Minister of Works has agreed to bring the matter before his colleagues at an early opportunity.

A LENDING-LIBRARY has been established for the use of the county police at **Cleethorpes**.

THE site for the Public Library at **Newton Abbot** has been fixed by the Council at Harvey's Corner, the alternative site suggested by the Library Committee as preferable, being a portion of the cattle market

THE Corporation of **Eastbourne** are applying for a loan of £1,200 for a branch library building at Seaside.

MISS KATE **Botterill**, daughter of the late assistant overseer for Colne, has been appointed librarian of the Public Library, at a salary of £75 per annum. There were eighty applicants.

THE memorial stone of the handsome Public Library building now in course of erection at **Briton Ferry** was laid by the Countess of Jersey on May 3rd. The Public Library and Council offices are combined, and are to cost £3,000 in all. The site is given by the Earl of Jersey, who has also given £500 towards the furnishing of the library, which will occupy the ground floor, and consist of a reading-room and library. It is gratifying to learn that the working men of Briton Ferry are contributing weekly to a fund, to be devoted to the purchase of

books. There can be no possible doubt of the library being put to good use in a community possessing so much public spirit amongst its working class.

ANENT the forthcoming **Waukesha** meeting of the American Library Association *Literature* remarks: "The programme is to undergo a marked change. Technical matters are to be relegated to side meetings, while the general sessions will be devoted to the literary or bookish side of the work. It is curious to note that in England librarians are busily reversing the order, literary questions meeting with slight favour, while technicalities are supreme. The balance may lean towards the American side, which certainly deals in practical fashion with its literary puzzles."

THE plans of Messrs. McKewan & Swan, which have been accepted for the **Keighley** Free Library, provide for a stone-built building of two storeys in height, treated in the Early Renaissance manner, the architects stating that "an endeavour has been made to give the building something of the local character of that period. Simplicity has been studied in every possible way, and we think that the buildings as a whole will group well and indicate their purpose, qualities which should characterise all architectural effort." The points they have aimed at are summarised as follows:—Easy access from entrance to newspaper reading-room and lending library; supervision of reading-rooms from the lending library; top lighting to newspaper reading-room and lending library; and provision for future extension. The main entrance is from North Street, through a vestibule leading into the main hall, from which easy access is gained to all rooms. The newspaper-room is approached directly from the hall, and is divided from it by large glazed screens, and top-lighted, giving ample room for the newspaper stands and magazine tables for 150 readers. The total area of this room is rather more than the 3,200 square feet stipulated for in the conditions. To the right of this main room is the ladies' room, a smaller apartment, also provided with magazine tables, and divided from the larger room by a glazed screen. The lending department is on the opposite side, and is a large room with a long counter for the library indicators and serving hatches. The accommodation is fully sufficient for 40,000 volumes, partly provided by stacks 7 ft. 6 in. in height. There are various other rooms on this floor of small size, including one for the librarian, and others which are shown as work and store rooms, whilst in the basement is a magazine store-room and the heating chamber. The reference library and magazine-room is on the second floor, and this is another large apartment, with accommodation for 41,000 volumes in the reference department in stacks, and tables for the magazine readers, with clerestory lighting. Adjoining is a patent library, of 2,000 superficial feet, and a store for valuable books. The newspaper reading-room and the lending library are both planned adjoining the boundary in order to make extension easy. The heating of the rooms will be by hot water on the low-pressure system,

the lighting by electricity, and special care has been taken to provide thoroughly satisfactory ventilation and drainage.

AT the annual meeting of a subscription library it was explained that the library had been closed—we do not know for how long—in order that the new librarian might have an opportunity of “mastering” the library before he conducted the issue of the books. This must make many a librarian’s mouth water. How can a librarian answer the usual expectations of the public, and know the contents of all his books, when he is being constantly interrupted by people coming in and out, by the necessity of supervision, by cataloguing, and committee work, &c., &c. Oh, if he could only shut the doors, and hang up a notice to this effect:—

SLOCUM PUBLIC LIBRARY.

CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

(N.B.—It may be for years, and it may be for ever.)

*Please go away quietly, so as not to disturb the Librarian,  
who is reading.*

OWING to want of room at the **Bodleian**, it is proposed to cease to claim under the Copyright Act such things as tracts—religious tracts are referred to, we presume—penny dreadfuls, and Christmas cards, which it is thought might well be spared by a university library, whatever may be the case at the British Museum. The items acquired last year numbered 65,300.

It has been decided to close the reading-room of the **Clerkenwell** Public Library on Sundays from June to September inclusive.

OF the heroic nature of the action of the committee of the **Darwen** Public Library in deciding not to purchase novels on publication, but to wait twelve months at least, to see if the book is good, and likely to live, there can be no question, though how so short a period is to test a book’s worth and its likelihood of life we do not understand. Then, unless the librarian or the committee are going to read proposed novels before buying, and want the year to do it in, what means of judging will they adopt that they have not available on the publication of the books, viz., the reviews? Our present opinion is that, if delay in novel purchase is to be of any value at all in sifting the wheat from the chaff in the large fiction output of the day, the minimum period should be ten years. By that time a novel which is still alive and in print will be worth considering—not necessarily worth buying.

A COMMITTEE of local gentlemen has subscribed £250 towards the formation of a reference department at the **Altrincham** Public Free Library.

THE suggestion of a correspondent in *The Manx Sun* that some of the considerable surplus on hand in the revenue of the island should be spent on books for the reference department of the **Douglas** Public



Library is a good one, and we only hope that the ear of the Attorney-General and Council will graciously incline thereto.

THE **Rotherham** Free Library and reading room has been re-opened after a thorough renovation.

THE Town Council of **Ilkeston** have adopted the Free Libraries Act by a practically unanimous vote. A sum of over £300 has now been raised by subscription. The library will be housed in the British Schools. The rd. rate at Ilkeston is estimated to bring in about £240

THE contract for the erection of the new **Workshop** Public Library amounts to £2,215.

THE days when the public librarian combined with his duties those of the library caretaker are not yet over it appears, if one is to read a recent advertisement in the usual sense. The advertisement invites "Candidates for the position of librarian and caretaker of the branch Public Library, — Street," at a salary of £80 per annum with house. But what strikes us as curious is that candidates are required to "submit themselves to a qualifying examination." Something of this sort perhaps:—

Who wrote "The Ivy Green"?

How would you deal with a drunken man in (1) the maudlin stage; (2) the aggressive stage; (3) the sleepy stage?

Write a letter to a newsagent who has neglected to send *The Daily Croak* for two days running.

Name and discuss the various soaps used in washing floors.

AT **Mile End** the borough engineer has been instructed to report on the adaptation of the Vestry Hall as a branch library in conjunction with the *three* librarians. Let us hope there are three librarians in the kingdom who all hold the same views, and that Mile End is the happy possessor of those three. The library rate is now levied on the whole of the borough of Stepney.

THE accepted tender for the erection of the Kilburn branch of the **Hampstead** Public Library amounts to £2,400.

A LARGE room at the Passmore Edwards Free Library at **Redruth** has been set aside for an art gallery and museum, and donations of specimens and money are being invited by the committee who have the matter in hand.

AT **Newport** (Scotland) no Library Committee has been appointed since 1892. The question was raised at the Town Council, and the Provost said that the library had been very well managed, and that it would be a pity for the Council to step in now.

APROPOS of Mr. Howard **Pearson's** remarks at the Birmingham Summer School, on the undue prevalence of fiction and other light reading, the *Birmingham Daily Gazette* observes:—"The public sadly

needs guidance, and, unless its taste is cultivated for better things, the printing-press will prove to be a curse rather than a blessing." And this from a newspaper!

THE committee of the Free Public Library at **Annandale** (Australia) recommended to the Council that the ladies' room should be converted into a smoking-room. But the Council, though with true colonial free-and-easiness they seem to indulge in the fragrant weed during their deliberations, refused to sanction the change.

AN important point has cropped up in connection with the administration of the Public Libraries Act at **Westminster**. Some of the old vestries, now merged into the City Council, limited the library rate to  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in the pound, and the question arose as to whether the City Council could remove the limitation. The opinion of counsel is in the negative, and it was pointed out at last week's meeting that it is more than doubtful whether the Act can be construed to give Metropolitan Borough Councils power to remove any such limitation without the consent of the voters of the parish affected. The Council, in view of that opinion, decided to give instructions for the preparation of revised estimates for the present financial year, with the object of keeping the expenditure on all the libraries in that city within the limit of a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. rate.

**Woolwich** Public Library. It has been decided to purchase 10,000 volumes from the private library of Mr. W. E. Goulden, of Canterbury, at a cost of £1,000, and to spend a further sum of £750 to complete the first purchase of books.

**Steeple Claydon** has now got its Public Library, a consummation due mainly to the persevering efforts of Sir E. H. Verney, who has found for it a temporary home. The library starts with 220 volumes. The rooms for the use of the public, as at present arranged, are a good-sized room for reading only, a large room for games and smoking, and a library, and a large room for committee and other meetings.

THE Libraries Act has been adopted for the parish of **Lee**.

THE offer of Mr. Passmore Edwards to build two branch libraries in **West Ham** has been accepted by the Town Council, who will apply for the requisite power to Parliament, and make an effort to obtain the consent of the burgesses to add an extra  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to the library rate.

THE **Springfield** (Mass.) Public Library is to try the experiment of home delivery of books, 100 persons having agreed to pay five cents a week for ten weeks for the service. Each reader furnishes a list of ten titles, and each is expected to have another list ready for the messenger on his weekly visit. As somebody will call for the books when they are due, fines for delay will be avoided.

THE librarians of Whitechapel, Limehouse, and St. George's-in-the-East have been re-appointed by the **Stepney** Town Council, upon the

same terms and conditions as those under which the original appointments were made by the late commissioners of the libraries in question.

MESSRS. R. J. & J. G. WHITE have given £500 for the purchase of books for the new Public Library to be erected in Wells Street, **Camberwell**.

PROVOST KEITH, **Hamilton**, has received a letter from Mr. Andrew Carnegie, intimating his intention of presenting a free library to Hamilton, on condition that the burgh adopts the Free Libraries Act and provides a site.

THE salary of Mr. **Austin**, Librarian of the Gloucester Public Library, has been increased.

LORD AVEBURY will open the new central library at **Hull** some time about next October or November.

A LIBRARY, no document of which is less than 4,100 years old has been discovered by Professor H. V. Hilprecht, of the University of Pennsylvania, at Nippur, in Mesopotamia. It is the first **Babylonian temple library** ever discovered. So far only one wing of the library has been excavated. Nearly 18,000 documents have been rescued from the ruins this year. The size of these inscribed clay tablets varies from one by two inches to one foot by one and a half. Unfortunately for the deciphering of the writing, they were made of unbaked clay, and therefore suffered considerably from the collapse of the building and the humidity of the ground.

MR. R. L. **Haggerston**, of Newcastle, has been appointed sub-librarian at the Norwich Free Library at £100 per annum.

THE Town Council of **Heywood** are borrowing £5,000 for the erection of an art gallery and extensions to the free library.

THE new Public Library building at **Wolverhampton** will probably be ready for use in about six months' time. The following are the features of the building:—At the main entrance are terra-cotta pillars leading to two swing doors, which open into the vestibule. To the right is the news-room, and to the left the reading-room. At the present time the iron girders are being encased in order to give the appearance of stone pillars. These will be coloured white, and ornamented at the tops! The ceiling, too, will be in white. Reaching from the floor to the windows will be glazed green tiles. From the vestibule to the first floor a handsome winding staircase is being built, for which Opton Wood stone, which has the appearance of marble, is being used. At the top of the stairs are two rooms—one for the librarian, the other for use as a book-repairing department. Overhead is an oblong dome, of artistic design, for the lighting of the staircase. To the right is the reference library—a commodious apartment, the appearance of which is enhanced by a circular dome, coloured pure white, with handsome pillars to match. One side of this room will be used for books, for which purpose part of it has been made into two

storeys. Part of the walls will be oak-panelled. On the right of the landing is a much larger and more imposing room—the lending library. This has an arched roof of frosted glass. The books, instead of being fixed against the walls, as in the old library, will be arranged on shelves, running from each pillar in the direction of the walls. These pillars, with their bookcases, will form recesses, of which there will be twelve, and each will be lighted by a separate window. Running in front of these recesses will be a continuous counter. Sufficient space is being left between the end of the cases and the wall, to enable the librarian's assistants to move from one recess to another. At the far end of this library is a door opening out on to a staircase to the ground floor, which will be used exclusively by the officials. In the basement are the caretaker's apartments, heating apparatus, &c. The whole of the floors are concrete and fire-proof. The progress of the work has been somewhat delayed owing to the men having to wait for terra-cotta, of which a large quantity has been used, and for iron girders.

THE Forest Hill branch of the **Lewisham** Public Libraries was opened by the Mayor of Lewisham on July 6th. The library at Perry Hill has been closed for the present.

THE **Fulham** Public Libraries Committee (Mr. F. T. Barrett, Librarian) has adopted the following scale of salaries for the staff, viz.:—Junior assistants (age about seventeen) to commence at 15s. per week, rising 2s. 6d. per week per annum to 30s.; senior assistants to commence at £80 per annum, rising £5 per annum to £100; sub-librarians to commence at £110 per annum, rising £10 per annum to £160.



## REVIEWS.

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**Jaggard, William.** Index to the First Ten Volumes of Book Prices Current, 1887-96: constituting a Reference List of Subjects, and, incidentally, a Key to Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature. viii + 472 pp. 1901. Elliot Stock, 21s.

Every librarian who has occasion, and this must include all librarians except those perhaps with very limited funds for book purchase at their disposal, to consult "Book-Prices Current" must have longed "many a time and oft" for a general index to the series. It has come at last, and we are grateful to Mr. Jaggard for the result of his labours in the well-arranged volume before us, though we cannot help regretting that the work could not have been made to cover the volumes from 1897 to 1900, thus bringing us to the close of the century. However, we are thankful for what we have. "The compilation," says Mr. Jaggard, "was taken in hand largely as a labour of love. Under the stress of error, infinite detail, and pressure on my time, the 'love

may have clouded now and then, but no diminution ever took place in the 'labour.'" The total cost of the items mentioned is, we are informed, somewhere about £700,000, not deducting for duplicates; this gives an average of £70,000 as the amount realised annually from the book sales. Titles are entered alphabetically under authors, and the references to the numbered items are first grouped by dates of editions and then by years. We notice a curious abbreviation used by Mr. Jaggard for collection—*collect'n*. It is surely hardly worth while making an abbreviation at all to drop only two letters out of ten. The employment of the square bracket in this book might be copied with advantage in library catalogues. Instead of putting an author's name in the usual two brackets, indicating an anonymous or, as here, pseudonymous work, Mr. Jaggard employs only one, thus :

APPERLEY (C. J.]) Life of John Mytton.

This is an improvement on the double bracket, as the first bracket [ throws the heading out of line, and gives an awkward appearance to the printed page.



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION : PLYMOUTH MEETING.

**A**MONG the subjects to be brought before the meeting, the following are likely to be treated by readers of papers :—

- I. Book Selection.
- II. The Different Methods of Cataloguing Books.
- III. District Bibliographies and Local Collections.
- IV. Modern Book Production as it affects Libraries.
- V. Library Rules and Regulations.
- VI. Technical Collections.
- VII. Reference Libraries.

In connection with the papers on cataloguing it is intended to exhibit a collection of library catalogues, class guides, book lists, and library journals. To ensure the success of this proposal, librarians are requested to send specimens of their latest catalogues, book lists, or similar publications, not later than Thursday, August 15th, addressed to Mr. W. H. K. Wright, Joint Hon. Local Secretary, Public Library, Plymouth.

BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION:  
SUMMER SCHOOL.

THIS School, for which seventeen students entered, opened, on June 4th, at the Council House, Birmingham, with an address by Mr. Howard S. Pearson on "The Study of English Literature," with the Vice-President, Mr. A. Capel Shaw, Chief Librarian of the Birmingham Public Libraries, in the chair.

Mr. Pearson set himself the task of showing how essential it is that the librarian should have a knowledge of literature. It was once said, remarked Mr. Pearson, that the librarian who reads is lost. To this he replied that he hoped the librarian who did not read would never be found. He urged that two things were absolutely necessary in a librarian—business capacity and intellectual culture. Both were important, but each must be kept in its own place, and neither was any good without the other. Passing on to consider what the librarian should read, Mr. Pearson said that books were produced so rapidly nowadays that it was impossible to assimilate more than a proportion even of the good ones; but this ought not to lead to the study of literature being looked upon as hopeless. However few books they were able to read, if they were good books, they were doing the essential thing and forming their own tastes, which was one of the great objects of reading good literature. Mr. Pearson went on to speak of the mass of fiction turned out by the Press—much of it without sense, morality, decency, and even grammar—and said a grave problem presented itself. If this reading-made-easy literature was raising those who a few years ago read nothing, all well and good; but if it was dragging down those who were in the habit of reading before, and of reading more substantial and valuable books, then it was an unqualified evil. Finally, Mr. Pearson laid it down that, although it was impossible to read all the good books, yet to gain a sufficient knowledge of good literature was by no means difficult to those who gave their mind to it. He advised students to get first of all a good manual, the reading of which would give them a bird's-eye view of literature, and bring them into relation with certain authors who would seem to them attractive, and of whom they would probably like to know a little more. Having selected the authors of whom they desired to know more, he advised students to turn to the monographs of great writers, which were so plentiful in the present day. In the third place, they must make it their business to read some good literature. Fourthly, Mr. Pearson counselled his hearers to consult their own taste, remarking that they were not supposed to read things which could not interest them when there was such an infinity of choice. Speaking, in conclusion, of the importance of the librarian's calling, Mr. Pearson said that people came to them for what might enter into the warp and woof of their very lives and souls. One single word from the librarian—it was no exaggeration to say it—might vibrate in its consequences for all eternity, for whilst we knew of a thousand instances in which one good book had been the salvation of a man's character, it was equally true

that in many cases one bad book had meant moral poison and complete ruin.

On the proposition of Mr. J. Elliot (Wolverhampton), seconded by Mr. Beetlestone (Birmingham), Mr. Pearson was heartily thanked for his address.

In the afternoon, Mr. R. K. Dent, Librarian of Aston Manor, spoke on "Catalogues and Cataloguing." He discussed the relative advantages of the dictionary and classified forms, and the difficulties arising from such matters as authors' pseudonyms. He pronounced in favour of the dictionary catalogue.

Later, the company paid a visit to the Balsall Heath Branch Library.

The second day's session was opened by a paper by Mr. John Elliot on "Indicators and other Charging Systems." Mr. Duckworth, Librarian, Worcester, then read a paper on "Open Access," a method in use in several Public Libraries in England, including Worcester, by which the borrower was allowed direct access to the shelves, to take from them the book he required. He pointed out the advantage of a library building being arranged specially for the system, so as to provide ample space, efficient lighting, and opportunity for supervision. Misplacements of books, he said, was one of the strongest arguments against this system, but, with proper precautions, misplacements could be reduced to a minimum. Mr. Duckworth devoted a good deal of time to the subject of classification. In the afternoon a lecture was given by Mr. W. Salt Brassington, F.S.A., on "Historic Bookbindings," and a demonstration in practical binding was given after the lecture. Later in the day the students paid a visit to Messrs. Buckler & Webb's printing and bookbinding establishment.

The School came to a close on June 6th. In the morning Mr. Capel Shaw took the members through the Birmingham Central Library, and, in the course of an address on "Library Arrangements," exhaustively explained to them the methods adopted in the institution, and gave them many valuable hints as to classification of books, binding, &c.

In the afternoon, at the Council House, Mr. R. K. Dent read a paper on "Aids for Readers, and Some Works of Reference Useful to Library Workers." He urged the necessity for cultivating the habit of curiosity, so that the librarian might know more than the outside of a book. For instance, the name, "Smith's Dictionary of Christian Antiquities," conveyed very little, except that Sir William Smith edited a dictionary of Christian antiquities. But when they opened the book, and glanced at its pages, they found that Christian antiquities took in something about ancient art, stories of the early Christians, and many other matters that the title did not readily suggest. Subjects which would at first sight appear wholly of the cut-and-dried order, upon examination would prove to possess unexpected matter for reflection; thus, in place of mere words, they came to possess a knowledge of things lying behind them, and their outlook would be largely widened

in its extent and comprehensiveness. While it was unfortunately the lot of the librarian to be a smatterer, he ought to master something, though he should beware not to allow his interests to run in one or two special directions to the neglect of others. Mr. Dent also urged his hearers not to be satisfied with learning something of the contents of their library, but to study their readers. Some of their readers were doubtless "cranks," who would monopolise one's time airing their own opinions; to these, after a courteous but brief interview, it was sometimes well to be obtuse. Frequently, too, the librarian had to spend a lot of time hunting for information before he realised it was intended for a reply to some guessing competition. He had himself been asked to find the name of the tree on which Judas hanged himself.

At the conclusion of the paper, the members proceeded on a visit of inspection to Aston Manor Public Library, where tea was served, and subsequently, under the guidance of Mr. J. W. Penn (Curator), inspected Aston Hall.

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#### NORTHERN COUNTIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE quarterly meeting was held on June 26th, at the Subscription Library, Sunderland. Mr. Basil Anderton, Newcastle, in the chair. Councillor Roche welcomed the association to Sunderland, and said he could remember so far back as the time of the laying of the foundation-stone of the Public Library in 1877, by Alderman Storey, in the presence of no less a person than ex-President Grant, U.S.A. A paper on "The Public Library at Home and Abroad" was read by Mr. B. R. Hill, Librarian of the Sunderland Free Library. Mr. Hudson, Middlesbrough, moved that the association respectfully urge upon the Council of the Library Association the desirability of every facility and ample time being given for the reading and discussion of papers dealing with practical librarianship, and suggest that such papers should take precedence over those of a merely literary or businesslike interest. Mr. Watkins, West Hartlepool, seconded, and the motion was carried. Papers on "The Fiction and Juvenile Sections of a Public Library," by Mr. C. R. Wright, Accrington, and "The Education of the Public in Library Work," by Mr. A. MacDonald, Dumbarton, were read. Subsequently the members took tea at the invitation of Alderman Burns. On the motion of the chairman, seconded by Mr. Hudson, a vote of thanks was accorded to Councillor Roche. It was decided to hold the next meeting at Plymouth, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Library Association there. A musical entertainment in the Town Hall brought the proceedings to a close.



[Owing to pressure on our space, the "Library Publications column is held over this month.]



## EDITORIALS.

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**Holiday Reflections.**

**I**N the meridian of the year the librarian, like other people, turns his back upon his work, and with gleeful heart hies him away to sea or mountain side, there to forget for a brief season book and pen and general public, and all the worries which vex the soul of the servant of these three mighty taskmasters. A little before the happy time of freedom a sudden and deep disgust for his work and everything connected with it will seize upon his soul. He feels the need of a wider horizon than that of five by three—the catalogue card. The neatness and order of his classified shelves in which he was wont to take such delight and pride appear to him now but a vanity and a vexation of the spirit. Oh, for something unclassified, like nature, where rock and tree and water and air and sky are not parcelled out and separated one from another, in the trivial sortage of the laboratory or shop, but all are piled together in grand and sharp confusion, or subtly blended in exquisite harmonies which defy the namer and confound the analyst. Then do the days drag slowly along until the curtain of the roll-top desk is finally shut down, and the wearied labourer goes forth—free.

Lying on the rocks above some great expanse of ocean, and lulled into delicious contemplation by the lap of the incoming tide, or gazing from some hill-top at an Alpine panorama of rock and peak and snow, or in any situation in which one is near to nature and a part of her, the librarian, perhaps more than most men, realises what poor things after all, in some respects, are the books amid which so much of his life is passed.

Seated in the library, with the wit and thought and science of past generations and of the present, recorded in tier upon tier of bulky volumes, it is difficult—almost impossible—to imagine a time when books were so few, and consequently so valuable, that they could play but a very small part in the mental activities of men. Yet hard as it may be for us to realise the fact, a fact it is, that the noblest ethics, the most profound philosophies, which have furnished later thinkers with the materials for their systems and books, were enunciated in these comparatively bookless ages. But if men had no books, no reading-rooms, they had the universe without, and—vaster still—the universe within. The sun rose and set in splendour, the stars met in the sky, flowers blossomed, then as now, but to the sage of that bygone time these were the pages of the great volume which he studied, and therein did he find marvels of suggestion, which threw his mind back upon itself and fed it unto fruitful meditation.

Nature is not, and cannot be, the same storehouse of wisdom unto us. We go to her for relaxation only, with eyes weary with the  
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perusal of the printed page, and brains tired with much book learning. We do not dare to be original. The past is heavy on us, like an Old Man of the Sea. At certain moments there is something even frightful in the sight of a great library. All that has been thought and done and penned, and the utter hopelessness of mastering, even in the longest life, more than a little fraction of this gigantic mass of written matter seems to weigh us down and crush us. Incalculable as the loss would be, it would not be without some compensation, if all the books in the world were thrown together and set ablaze, as in the story by Nathaniel Hawthorne. That titanic bonfire would have at least this effect: it would force men to search in nature and in the depths of their own minds for material for contemplation. Barren indeed would many discover their interior selves to be. Work and books take us, as a rule, out of ourselves, and some of us are so intent upon studying the words of other men, and thinking their thoughts, that we fondly imagine that it is *we* who are thinking. Thus books become chains instead of being tools; admirable and necessary tools certainly, but tools at best. And the librarian through whose mind some such reflections as these may have passed, as he drinks in the sunshine which is to help him through his winter's work, may well impress upon himself that it is as much his duty to try and prevent the abuse of reading as it is to inculcate the habit. Indeed, the former is the more pressing need to-day. Great, in sooth, and mighty, both for good and evil, is the printed book, but infinitely greater is the book of nature and of life.

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### New Blood.

By Mr. J. Y. W. Macalister:—"That in the opinion of this meeting it is extremely desirable that at future elections of the Council three London members and five country members should retire, and be ineligible for re-election for twelve months; and that in the best interests of the Association the Council be, and is hereby urged, to carry this reform into effect."—*Notice of Motion.*

THE Annual Business Meeting of the Library Association will have the opportunity this year of discussing an important motion which, owing to the chairman's ruling at the Bristol meeting, it was not permitted on that occasion to do. Though we believe the ruling in question to have been an unfortunate one, since it denied the right of members to raise any question without previous notice on the Council's report, yet as far as this particular motion is concerned the delay is rather advantageous than otherwise—not least because Mr. Macalister will doubtless be present this time to move in person the motion standing in his name. And if a motion of this description is to be discussed fairly and squarely on its merits, with a single eye to its probable effect on the policy and work of the Association, it should emanate from some member who is not only a *persona grata* to the meeting, but who has obviously no axe to grind, no conceivable personal end to gain. That Mr. Macalister submits the motion is a sufficient reply to those who would consider it adequately discussed and disposed of by tracing it to a few chronic malcontents and disappointed candidates for Council honours.

It is difficult indeed to understand upon what grounds Mr. Macalister's motion can, in principle at all events, be reasonably objected to. It does not reflect on the Council of the Library Association. It simply declares it desirable that a certain amount of "new blood" should be annually infused into the governing body by the smooth and regular operation of the law. It is the acknowledged and invariable fate of all governing bodies to become more or less conservative and crusted, and out of touch with the younger and more ardent spirits, to all of whose representations, whatsoever of "sweet reasonableness" a candid and free judgment may perchance discern in them, its tendency is to oppose a conveniently blind and crushing official inertia, or, if it does examine and consider, to consider with no or little regard for any other standpoint than that of the powers that be. This is of course particularly the case where some such healthful regulation as that proposed by Mr. Macalister does not obtain. The objection sure to be urged against it, that the Council of the Association is an elected body, and that the remedy for any such state of things, where it exists, rests entirely with the members (of whom it is childish to complain that they *will* go on voting for the same men year after year), simply ignores the whole case for the change. It would be more pertinent were the Library Association composed wholly, or even largely, of members taking a real and active part in its work, in touch with each other, and familiar with the various questions which come before it. But the Library Association is emphatically not such a body. Like other associations which spread their nets widely, it consists of a comparatively small nucleus of workers and those who maintain a living interest in it; a contiguous ring of semi-interested people, whose interest, though intelligent, is mostly of a lukewarm and languid kind; and an outer ring, whose interest goes little beyond a sympathy with the objects of the Association. The consequence is, naturally, that the votes of the majority of the members tend to the maintenance of the *status quo*. Once let a man be elected to the Council, and the chances are he will continue to be so elected for as long as he chooses to stand—more especially if his *rôle* is that of a masterly inactivity, which offends nobody. Mr. Macalister's proposed rule will correct this; not by violently disturbing the tendency towards the *status quo*, which is a necessary element of stability, but by preventing to some extent the automatic voting which is responsible for the persistence in office of men who either ought never to have been elected at all, or who have failed to justify the confidence reposed in them, or whose day of service is passed.

We do not desire to anticipate by further discussion the remarks with which Mr. Macalister may see fit to introduce his motion at the meeting at Plymouth. All we would ask of members of the Association who are also numbered among our readers is that they will make a special effort to be present at the business meeting, and that they will give an unbiassed consideration to the proposal, which, so far as we are concerned, has our heartiest approval.

## THE TREATMENT OF PAMPHLETS.

By L. STANLEY JAST, *Chief Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

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PAMPHLETS and methods of filing them has been the subject of many articles, and it would perhaps seem that there is nothing left to say that has not been already said. I venture to doubt this. I think there is still something to say, and, even though that something resolve itself largely into a discussion of details, it is just in details that difficulties are likely to arise. Though the general opinion be that pamphlets are a nuisance, and that the average Public Library should not "lay itself out" to collect them, some pamphlets have to be preserved—local pamphlets, at any rate—and therefore, to some extent, the "pamphlet problem" (what a lot of "problems" the librarian is plagued with) is a matter of concern to every library. Pamphlets which lie around promiscuously *are* a nuisance: they get dirty and damaged, and give a horribly untidy air to the shelves. And this is so even if they are neatly tied up in bundles broad enough to stand upright, and shelved among the books. This, though one way of dealing with them, cannot be regarded as other than a makeshift.

**Definition.**—What is a pamphlet? Various definitions have been given. The word is omitted from the definitions in Cutter's "Rules." "The Century Dictionary" has the following:—"A printed work consisting of a few sheets of paper stitched together, but not bound; now, in a restricted technical sense, eight or more pages of printed matter (not exceeding five sheets) stitched or sewed, with or without a thin paper wrapper or cover." Mr. Biscoe says:—"The real distinction, on which all agree, seems to be that a pamphlet is unbound." This is the practical library distinction, but the use of *pamphlet* in catalogue entries is valueless to the reader unless as an indication that the book is a thin one, *i.e.*, a short treatise, which is unaffected by the fact as to whether it is bound or unbound. And this indication is better given in the form of the actual number of pages (say when under 100) than by the word *pamphlet*, which I would prefer to drop from the catalogue. Then for library, which means really for filing purposes, a pamphlet will be *any treatise, whether bound or unbound, which will not stand stiffly on the shelves*. However, I should not regard a durable limp binding as coming within the scope of this definition, nor broadsides, which call for somewhat different treatment. Otherwise every tract or volume which cannot be shelved conveniently amongst the bound volumes owing to its non-durability and want of stiffness is a pamphlet, whether it have five or five hundred pages, and its class-number is preceded by a lower-case "p," signifying "pamphlet collection."

**Form of Box.**—When a pamphlet is bound, it ceases to be a pamphlet, *i.e.*, it is removed from the "collection." Methods of filing therefore resolve themselves into these three:—1, boxes; 2, drawers; 3, pigeon-holes. No. 2 is an expensive variation of no. 1, and the

portability of the box is lost. No. 3 is also an expensive method, and is hardly likely to be considered by any ordinary library; it has, moreover, nothing to recommend it, as the partitions not only do not protect the pamphlets from dust, but collect it, and great care (which is bound not to be always shown) is needed to prevent injury in replacing pamphlets, unless space is wasted by filing very loosely, or a separate space provided for every pamphlet. So that, practically, we are reduced to some form of box. There are many forms on the market, and to all those of the "pigeon-hole" type, *i.e.*, which consist of a box open at one end, whether with or without cover, the remark made above as to the liability to injure a pamphlet in pushing it in among others applies. The best form of box is that in which the whole of one side acts as a lid, the part corresponding to the fore-edge of a book falling flap-wise when the box is opened, thus completely exposing the contents and permitting them to be handled freely, without risk of rubbing them against one another or against the sides of the box, and creasing or tearing. The lid serves as a convenient receptacle for the pamphlets turned over in searching for the one required. It should be covered with cloth, not paper, and have a wooden back to give it strength; and it should be provided with a xylonite label-holder. Such a box will, of course, cost more than the ordinary paper-covered box, but it will be cheaper in the end, and will last for years with fair usage, and look well on the shelves. Common faults are to fill the box too full, and to squeeze pamphlets in which are just too big for it, and so strain it out of shape. It is truer economy to get another box.

**Sizes of Boxes.**—The question of the sizes of pamphlet boxes deserves careful thought. It is unfortunate that the stock sizes carried by the various manufacturers do not fit in with the requirements of the standard shelving which is adopted by most libraries using the decimal or some similar relative location. The boxes must go on the regular shelves, and they should fit them without waste of space. This none of the stock sizes will do. The standard octavo shelf is 7 in. to 8 in. deep  $\times$  36 in. long, placed 10 in. apart. Taking the largest size carried by a certain firm which will go on the above shelf,  $9 \times 7 \times 2$ , we find that  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. of space is lost vertically, 1 in. is lost in depth, and 1 in. in length; the last, of course, is not a serious loss, as it is spread over the whole number of boxes which can be placed on the shelf, *viz.*, seventeen, 1 in. being allowed for play. This is on the supposition that the pamphlets are shelved together, rather than immediately after the books dealing with the same topic. The advantage of the latter plan, that it brings all material on a subject together, whether bound or unbound, would be of more consequence if the reader had access to these shelves, but I do not know that any library allows such access to its pamphlet collection. I prefer to keep pamphlets all together; the other plan wastes too much room, *e.g.*, a library having a single pamphlet on astronomy, another on chemistry, and a third on English history, would need a box for each if classified among the books. If shelved in one place, a single box holds the lot.

I have worked out a table of sizes for the following system of shelves:—

			Length.	Depth.	Distance apart.
<i>Octavo</i>	...	...	36 in.	7-8 in.	10 in.
<i>Quarto</i>	...	..	36 "	9-10 "	12 "
<i>Folio</i>	...	...	36 "	12-13 "	16 "

The octavo shelves take books up to 25 cm. ( $9\frac{7}{8}$  in.) high; the quarto, up to 30 cm. ( $11\frac{7}{8}$  in.); the folio, up to 40 cm. ( $15\frac{3}{4}$  in.). I believe in leaving  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. clear between the highest book of a series and the top of the shelf. The heights of the series of boxes are therefore made to correspond with the highest book that comes in each respective size. As the British manufacturer is still apt to "kick" at the metric measurement, I have made a concession to the sturdy independence which is losing us our commercial supremacy by giving the approximate values in inches. In ordering it will be as well to quote both inside and outside dimensions. Outside dimensions are *maximum*. Inside dimensions are *minimum*:—

<i>Octavo box</i> —	$25 \times 19.7 \times 12.7$ cm.)	} Outside.
	$9\frac{7}{8} \times 8 \times 5$ in.)	
	$9\frac{1}{4} \times 7 \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ in.)	} Inside.
	$23.5 \times 17.8 \times 12$ cm.)	
<i>Quarto box</i> —	$30 \times 25.7 \times 12.7$ cm.)	} Outside.
	$11\frac{7}{8} \times 10\frac{1}{8} \times 5$ in.)	
	$11\frac{1}{4} \times 9 \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ in.)	} Inside.
	$28.5 \times 22.8 \times 12$ cm.)	
<i>Folio box</i> —	$40 \times 34.9 \times 12.7$ cm.)	} Outside.
	$15\frac{3}{4} \times 13\frac{1}{4} \times 5$ in.)	
	$15\frac{1}{8} \times 12 \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ in.)	} Inside.
	$38.4 \times 30.5 \times 12$ cm.)	

Seven of these boxes will go to the standard shelf of 36 in. They are as wide, to save cost, as one hand can conveniently grasp. The objection made to having all wide boxes, that a single pamphlet falls across and bends or twists, does not apply when the pamphlets are filed together, as no single pamphlet need be boxed separately. The width, 5 in., is greater than that of any stock size I have been able to find quoted, which is about 4 in. or  $4\frac{1}{4}$  in., but I strongly recommend this width as best.

**Sizes of Pamphlets.**—It is obvious that pamphlets cannot be sized so as to agree with the book sizes unless the inside dimensions of the boxes are made to correspond with the book scale, in which case the boxes would not go on the proper shelves. The octavo pamphlet limit is 1.5 cm. less than that of a book, viz., 23.5 cm., the difference representing the thickness of the top and bottom of the box. And, as it is better not to fit a pamphlet tightly in the box, but to leave sufficient play to permit of the free handling of the contents without injury, the limit for pamphlet octavos may be considered as about

23·3 cm. I suggest, therefore, a special size scale for pamphlets, as follows:—

SIZE LETTERS FOR PAMPHLETS.

(“p” series.)

<i>Octavo.</i>	No mark.	Height not over $9\frac{3}{8}$ in.	(23·3 cm.)
<i>Quarto.</i>	Mark “q.”	” ” ” $11\frac{3}{8}$ ”	(28·3 ” )
<i>Folio.</i>	Mark “f.”	” ” ” $15\frac{1}{8}$ ”	(38·2 ” )

Over 38·2 cm. mark “x,” and file in special box.

Octavos broader than 23·3 cm. are marked “q,” and are filed in “q” boxes.

Quartos broader than 28·3 cm. are marked “f,” and are filed in “f” boxes.

The size letter follows “p”; e.g., pq 423 is pamphlet, quarto box, class 423.

But the foregoing is intended only for location purposes. The imprint size should be given according to the ordinary standard scale, irrespective of the “finding” size.

**Covers.**—Pamphlets which lack covers should be supplied with manilla covers.

**Consultation.**—They should be placed in spring-back reading cases before being allowed to be consulted, and the case should have some such notice as this pasted on the inside of the front cover:—

*PAMPHLETS.*

*Extra frail, therefore use extra care, and kindly consult without removing from case.*

I reserve for another article some notes on the treatment of Parliamentary papers and prints and broadsides.



INTERCHANGEABLE TICKETS.

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THE VIEWS OF LONDON LIBRARIANS.

III.

Mr. C. F. TWENEY, Putney:—

It is difficult to see what end would be gained if the suggestion of the Battersea Library Committee, viz.: to make borrowers' tickets available throughout the Metropolis, were realised. The advantage, if any, would always be on the side of

the smaller or poorer parishes. For instance, Chelsea or Westminster inhabitants would never be likely to go to Fulham to borrow books; but the contrary might happen. Again, the stock of books in the lending department of most of the Metropolitan Public Libraries is pretty much the same. Books of special value and costly and extensive works are almost invariably placed in the reference department. These are the books that other parishioners would most likely wish to borrow, and such works are not lent out. They must be consulted on the premises. And the books in any reference library are as accessible to the visitor from far Cathay as to the very ratepayer of the borough.

Mr. E. GUNTHORPE, *late* South Hornsey :—

The proposal that borrowers' tickets should be made interchangeable among London Public Libraries, does not seem, under present circumstances, to be practicable. When the Acts are adopted throughout the Metropolis, and Public Libraries conveniently distributed throughout London, under a central authority, and care taken that each library shall be administered, financially and otherwise, with due regard to the rest, then the interchangeable ticket might well be a feature of the scheme.

Mr. GEORGE PREECE, Stoke Newington :—

I do not agree with the proposal that borrowers' tickets should be made interchangeable throughout the Metropolis, and do not think any workable scheme can be framed, so long as libraries are managed by separate authorities and arranged under various systems.

In my opinion the well managed and equipped library would have to bear more than its fair share of work which should be performed by its less active neighbours.

Mr. WM. C. PLANT, Shoreditch :—

I see no objection to the proposed interchangeable ticket provided that we had, as is the case in our larger provincial towns, a central library authority, such as say the London County Council. As it is, however, each authority throughout the Metropolis has a different set of rules and regulations, allowing different periods for the reading of the books, and imposing various amounts of fines—hence the confusion and difficulty.

True it is, the rules of each library may be found on the book-label; but how many borrowers trouble to read them? Besides, Mr. Inkster suggests, I believe, the abolition of fines.

I am, moreover, inclined to the opinion that the proposed privilege is not desired. A glance at any of our Public Library catalogues will show that works of the fiction section in each



library are almost identical, while the rule is to allow any person aged 16 or upwards to read any work of the other classes, on the premises, whether located in the lending or the reference department, without a ticket.

Again, we find that although the ticket is available at each library within the borough, readers hesitate at times on being informed that the books they desire may be obtained at another branch on account of the distance.

Mr. WM. BRIDLE, East Ham :—

To me the Battersea suggestion of making borrowers' tickets interchangeable amongst all London Public Libraries seems to offer immense advantages. I regard it as another and important step towards the goal of nationalizing Public Libraries. There are undoubtedly many difficulties in the way of launching the scheme, but none that cannot be surmounted. The initial difficulty will be to get library authorities to co-operate. I anticipate that many of them will want a lot of convincing. Having unanimously agreed to give the scheme a trial, the kind of machinery required to work it will need careful consideration, but this may well be left to the librarians concerned. The question of the moment is—Who will take the initiative?

Mr. SAMUEL T. CLARKE, Penge :—

A proposal which tends towards the furthering of the usefulness of the Public Libraries of London, and which deserves the support of every librarian.



## NOTES ON THE GLASGOW EXHIBITION: FOR LIBRARY ASSISTANTS.

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TO the library assistant there is much that is instructive and interesting in the show relating to books, printing, and book-binding in the Glasgow Exhibition; and the following brief notes, hastily put together, may serve as a kind of guide to one going there, as there is so much to be seen that one might not notice some of the exhibits given below. Near the Sandyford Street entrance is the stall of the Oxford University Press, with a very large exhibit of Bibles, dainty little Prayer Books, and their other publications, all beautifully bound in calf, morocco, and cloth. Though comparisons are odious, this is undoubtedly (to a library assistant) the finest display in the Exhibition. In one of the cases is shown the "First Oxford Bible ever printed (1673-5) on paper manufactured in England 227 years ago," and other books printed at the "Theater." The exhibit

of Oxford India Paper is very interesting, showing the great decrease in weight, size, and bulk of a book as compared with one printed on ordinary paper.

Only a few feet from this exhibit is the case of Messrs. Mac Lehose, of Glasgow, showing the different stages in binding a book. The twenty-five specimens shown give a good outline of the process of fine bookbinding. The same firm also shows specimens of types, in European and other languages, printers' utensils, illustrations of moulding, stereotyping, and electrotyping, and some very beautiful bindings. Messrs. Mac Lehose are the printers to the University of Glasgow. Near at hand, Messrs. Chambers have a large four-sided case containing their publications. The exhibit of the National Bible Society of Scotland is well worth examining. Bibles in many languages are shown at this stall. Messrs. Cassell have a large stall, and the attendant is dressed in what is supposed to have been something like the costume of Stevenson's Allan Breck Stewart. He looks a picturesque figure with his cocked hat, red wig, long boots, and sword by his side. In this section foreign publishers are represented, especially French. Not far off is the Literature Section (Women) in which many portraits, manuscripts, letters, &c., of British and foreign lady authors are exhibited. There are usually one or two ladies working at bookbinding at the stall of the Glasgow School of Art. Turning to the Corporation Art Galleries, we find in Pavilion No. IV (Arts and Crafts) the firm of Messrs. Mac Lehose showing other specimens of their binding, and also the Doves Bindery, under the direction of Mr. T. J. Cobden-Sanderson. In a case all to itself is a copy of the Kelmscott "Chaucer" on vellum, printed by the late William Morris, and illustrated by the late Sir E. Burne-Jones. In Gallery No. III, case A, are bindings in silver, &c., illuminated missals, and a most beautiful manuscript on vellum of the "Vita Christi" of Ludolphus, over 500 years old. There are also many books, manuscripts, maps, and early newspapers of Scottish interest. In conclusion, in the Machinery Section one may see copies of *The Glasgow Herald* being printed, and the manner in which illustrations are done for magazines.

W. M.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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THE second report of the work of the **Hornsey** Public Libraries, 1900-01, is, on the whole, good. The daily average issue of the central lending department is 788—the highest open access circulation, we believe, in the country, although this result is somewhat nullified by the high percentage of fiction (including juvenile literature), which is 84. The reference department issues are as low as those of the lending are high: a daily average of seven on a stock

of 2,300 is rather disappointing. The Stroud Green branch has done well during its two months of life. The lending section at this library is

An apartment 25 ft. 6 in. long by 27 ft. wide, and has accommodation for 10,000 volumes, the entrance being immediately in front of the main entrance to the building. The system of issue is the same as at the central library—safeguarded open access. The reading-room is 30 ft. by 26 ft., and is entered from the left of the vestibule, glazed screens giving complete oversight from the lending library counter. The greater portion of the building, comprising the reading-room, main hall and corridor, is one storey in height, the lending library portion being carried up an additional storey, so as to provide the residence of the librarian-in-charge. The basement is devoted to stores and the heating apparatus.

The table of receipts and expenditure does not present such an entirely satisfactory state of affairs as we should like to see. The 1d. rate produces £1,950; out of this nearly £490 (or even more, for the statement is not clear as to the period covered by the payments) has to be taken to repay loans and interest. An authority which has to support a central library, issuing nearly 800 per day, and two fat branches, on an income of £1,460, at least cannot be deemed wealthy. At present the annual expenditure on new books for the central library amounts to only £120; this is quite insufficient, and a considerable increase in the near future in the expenditure on replacements and binding is likely to keep this amount stationary, unless an extraordinary increase in the rate is forthcoming. Apart from this financial point, the report is, as we said, satisfactory.

The **Aston Manor** Reference Library has increased by 456 volumes in 1900-01, and now contains 7,710 volumes, 608 pamphlets, and 52 plans. The daily average issue is 51. The lending section contains 10,433 volumes, and issues 288 per day. We are glad to hear that the free lectures are still as successful as ever in this eighteenth year of their existence.

A successful course of free lectures is also the feature of the work of the **Mayer Trust**, Bebington. No details are given as to the number of books in the Public Library; the issues were 13,217 for the year 1900-01, an increase of 2,200.

**Kingston** reports a steady increase in the number of borrowers, and in the number of books issued during 1900-01; and also a very large increase in the use of the reference library.

The steadily increasing work of the reference library since the introduction of the open shelf system is very encouraging. It points to a growing appreciation of the value of good books and their usefulness in the operations of everyday life. It also proves the wisdom of making the books easily accessible

Hitherto, students and others consulting reference books have been greatly hampered by having to mix with the magazine readers, and this has been a distinct hindrance to progress; although good order is always maintained, yet it is the order of the magazine room, not of the study. Formerly the small use made of this department would not have justified the setting apart of a room for its especial purpose; but the work has now reached a point when this has become very desirable.

As we have pointed out before in this column "Our New Books," the quarterly journal of the library, is not a conspicuous success; the fact is again noted in this report.

The Thirty-second Report of the **Cleveland** Public Library is, like its predecessors, full and interesting. For frontispiece it has a diagram, a circle divided into sectors of a size proportionate to the amount of tax received by each of the city departments. The library authority receives 1.3 per cent. of the city's income; and on this contrives to support a main library consisting of reference and circulating departments, and administrative and cataloguing departments for the whole system, four branches, four sub-branches, nineteen deposit stations, thirteen delivery stations, forty-seven collections averaging fifty volumes each deposited with teachers for the use of their schools, and twenty-six engine houses having collections of books. This large system, which issues 950,000 volumes per annum for home reading, is in immediate need of further extension.

The value of an adequate system of branches developed throughout the city, aiding and supplementing the work of the schools, is incalculable. This will not, however, in the least lessen the value or the necessity of an adequate central library, but will rather increase it. The main library must always be the headquarters for administration, for book buying, binding, and cataloguing, and for the storing and supplying of books for the branches and stations. It will be the main circulating library, containing, in addition to a collection of the lighter and more popular books much larger than can be placed in any branch, the general collections on the more important subjects, such as history, biography, travel, literature, philosophy, religion, and science, which it is impossible to duplicate on account of their extent and expense. In this and in its reference library it will be the storehouse and workshop of the scholar and the student. As the administrative centre of a system of branches it will require even more ample housing than if its work were only that of a reference and circulating library for those who are able to visit it. The experience of other large cities as well as Cleveland is that the use of the main library is not decreased by the opening of branches, but that the branches increase the use of books by bringing them within the use of those who are not able to use the main library.

The state of the funds does not permit the extension, and the librarian reasonably growls at the smallness of the sum doled out to him.

As compared with the fund for school purposes, which, large as it is, is far from adequate to the needs of that all-important department, the only suggestion is that, if it pays to spend 28·5 cents out of every dollar to teach boys and girls the use of books, it certainly pays to spend 1·3 cents more to give them an opportunity to continue the use of good books through life.

Them's our sentiments, exactly.

The forty-eighth report of the **Liverpool** Public Libraries, Museums, and Art Gallery, 1900, shows that nearly one and a half million volumes have been "more or less read in the public reading-rooms or taken away for home reading." In addition, over 700,000 magazines, reviews, &c., have been issued. The report states that

A falling-off in the number of working men attending the various reading-rooms has been observable during the whole of the year, due no doubt to the excellent state of trade. Our reading-rooms form a reliable indicator of the condition of trade in the City, particularly at the docks.

We also quote the following interesting paragraph :—

An examination of Table II. exhibits the steadily growing demand for books of a technical character, for books of travel, and for books for the study of modern languages. Taking the reference library as the exponent of what people read, and comparing the book issues in 1900 with those in 1890, we have of technical books 41,863 against 28,450; of works of travel 20,691, against 9,822; and of books for the study of modern languages 20,653, against 6,540. It may here be noted, as showing perhaps a sign of the times that the issue of Latin and Greek classics last year was only 2,730 volumes, compared with 3,679 in 1889.

This increase in the use of technical and modern language literature is certainly very encouraging, and a forcible argument in favour of the extension of this class of work in other libraries. The number of libraries with even a meagre selection of foreign literature is astonishingly small; those with an entirely adequate selection, such as that at Nottingham, can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The decrease in the Latin and Greek classics is doubtless a "sign of the times," but, although no one could be more strongly in favour of the wide dissemination of modern languages than we are, we should be sorry to regard the decay of classical study as the necessary concomitant. Utilitarianism makes for

progress in demanding more French scholars ; it is disserviceable, even in its own behalf, in sanctioning the neglect of Greek, in which much of the best that has been thought and said in the world is preserved. As a supplement to Mr. Thomas Johnston's article on the disposal of "infected books," the following extract may be made, since it refers to a city where the death-rate is high :—

As the spread of infectious disease through the circulation of the library books is discussed from time to time, more or less nervously, by the public, it may be as well to state the course pursued in order to prevent as far as possible the books becoming a means of contagion. It may be mentioned that well nigh fifty years have elapsed since the chief librarian issued the first book in connection with the South Branch lending library, and since then more than twenty millions of books have been circulated from the libraries, and yet he is unable to mention a single authenticated case of infection traceable to this cause. Every reasonable precaution is taken, notwithstanding, to prevent the library books jeopardising the public health. The Medical Officer of Health has the authority of the Library Committee to disinfect, or absolutely destroy, any library book or books found in a house where infectious disease exists. That this authority is not disregarded is evidenced by the fact that during the past year 13 volumes were destroyed, and 178 volumes disinfected, and similar action has been taken for some years past.

This is also *à propos* of the remark in last month's "Libraries and Librarians" column anent Dr. Gordon Stables' views.

**Brentford** Public Library has now 6,776 volumes in stock, while its lending library daily average issue during 1900-01 was 57, and the total reference issue for the same period was 1808.

The **Stoke Newington** Public Libraries have now 19,490 volumes in stock, and issue 441 of them per day. We are pleased to learn that the reduction of the age limit of borrowers to ten years has been appreciated. The number of tickets held by borrowers between the age of ten and fourteen years is 262. Their conduct has been satisfactory, and although the counter space is limited, no complaint as to the presence of the children has been made by adult borrowers.

The number of volumes in the **Battersea** Public Libraries is 48,941, an increase of 2,627 volumes during 1900-01. The increase in the issue is nearly 50,000 for the same period : since 1895 it has increased by 150,000. This is highly satisfactory. Two book exhibitions have been held : one of some of the principal books on architecture, building construction, &c., which 134 persons attended, a second of fine arts, which 627 attended. There can be no doubt of

the enormous value of exhibitions as a means of acquainting townspeople with the contents of their library.

The **Dundee** Public Libraries now contain 82,371 volumes, an increase of 3,425 for the year 1900. As in the case of the Liverpool Report we cull the following remarks on "infected" books:—

The desirable system followed for many years of close observation of books issued to houses visited by infectious diseases has been efficiently carried out during the year. The list of such houses kept by the Sanitary Inspector is carefully gone over almost *daily*, and when such a case is discovered, intimation is at once made that the book must not be returned until the house and book are disinfected; and when returned the book is again disinfected by the effective apparatus kept in the basement floor. Should a work, however, be found in a house visited by small-pox or scarlet fever, it has been resolved not to allow it to be returned to the library, but to ask that it be at once destroyed.

The **Richmond** Public Library stocks 28,637 volumes, and issues 397 of them per day. There are 3,251 borrowers.

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**Bristol Public Libraries.** MATHEWS, NORRIS, City Librarian.  
Catalogue of the North District Library, Cheltenham Road.  
528 pp. 7 in. × 4½ in. 1901.

This catalogue is compiled on the dictionary principle. The author, subject, and first word of title are distinguished by black-faced type; and the contents of magazines, volumes of essays, and the like are fully set out in most cases. On the whole, it is a fairly good example of "short dictionary," and will doubtless be a useful, if not very adequate, guide to the readers of this branch. There are one or two curious points. Works by pseudonymous authors appear under the pseudonym, but with no reference from the real name; and the real name is printed after the pseudonym in some cases. In others the reverse is done, e.g., **Iota** [*Mrs. Mannington Caffyn*], **Warner** (Susan) [*Elizabeth Wetherell*], but **Lyall** (Edna) simply. In the case of "Q," the works appear under Quiller-Couch, with a reference from "Q." One is referred to "Quiller-Couch" from **Couch** (A. T. Quiller-), from **Belloc** (B. Parkes-) to Parkes-Belloc; but not from Linard to **Buckman-Linard** (S.); nor from Burton to **Bloundelle-Burton** (J. E.). Christian names and initials, given in other cases, are omitted when two authors have collaborated, e.g., **Hug and Stead**; **Houston and Kennelly**. "Artemus Ward in London" appears under "Artemus" simply and solely. Dates are given to non-fiction entries in most instances, but not consistently—N.D., by the way, is used for undated works. There is a heading "Literary Biography," with nearly

five pages of entries, but there is no "Scientific Biography," and from "Religious Biography" we are referred to "Biography, Collective." Under a subject heading, entries are arranged in alphabetical order by titles—a by no means satisfactory arrangement at any time, but especially in this case, where *a*, *an*, and *the* are regarded as the first words of titles.

Here are three typical entries:—

**Boswell** (James).

Life of Samuel Johnson, N.D.

Life of Samuel Johnson, by J. W. Croker, 1847.

Lives of Boswell and Johnson, by J. F. Walker, 1882.

In the two first entries Boswell is the author; in the third, the subject. Would not this be an improvement:—

**Boswell** (James), Life of Samuel Johnson, N.D.

Life of Samuel Johnson, *ed.* J. W. Croker.

**BOSWELL** (James).

Lives of B. and Johnson, by J. F. Walker, 1882.

It occupies exactly the same number of lines, and is, we submit, clearer. The alphabetisation is not impeccable. Under **Gosse** (P.H.) "The Aquarium" is misplaced; the same has happened with "Greek and Latin Literature" under "Greece—Language." We also get

Gordon (J. E. H.).

Gordon (Sir Arthur).

Gordon (Sir A. D.).

But it is not usual nor correct to recognise complimentary prefixes as a factor in the alphabetic arrangement. The last two headings, moreover, are incorrectly alphabetised; Gordon (Sir A. D.) should come before Gordon (Sir Arthur).



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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**T**HE *Library Journal* for July contains matter on the A.L.A. Conference at Waukesha; on New York's Carnegie Libraries; The Card Catalogue of a Great Public Library, by Mr. J. S. Billings, director, New York Public Library; The Revision of the Library of the University of Pennsylvania, by Miss S. W. Randall, of that institution; The Durability of Leather in Bookbinding, by Mr. Walter Pyle, a manufacturer and dealer in bookbinding leather; a description of a periodicals check, similar to one described in this journal recently, by Mr. E. A. Savage; and, of course, the usual news, critical, and bibliographical columns which are such a feature of this publication. In the opinion of Mr. Pyle, 75 per cent. of the book-



binders' leathers manufactured to-day are used for ephemeral works, which are not expected to be used more than a year or so. This has had the effect of reducing the price, even when the book is of a lasting character. It has become imperative also to reduce the labour cost, so that the binder now insists on thinner leathers that may be more easily and cheaply worked than in old times. Cloth and buckram bindings, we are told, do not last so long as morocco, cowhide, and perhaps roan, if the books bound in them *are used*; but if they are *not used* they will certainly stand time better. What are the remedies for binding in bad leather? (1) Libraries must pay fair prices, and not huckster their books round to three or four different binders. Insist on having good *heavy* morocco or cowhide. (2) Insist that the book-binder shall pay a fair price for his leather, and buy it of responsible houses. He will be less likely to get under-tanned (or *starved*) leather, which is always brittle and weak. A little addition of oil to the back of the leather adds greatly to its strength and durability, and this can be done with heavy leathers, but not with thin skins.

Finally, I wish to make a little suggestion in regard to black, or very dark blue, or green leathers. Use them as little as possible. All leathers of this description are made with acid, generally vinegar and iron, and of course this tends to rot the leather, especially as no, or at least very little, oil can be put in bookbinders' leathers. If we could fill our leather with oil as the leather of shoes is filled, the strength and lasting qualities would be much improved, but this is impossible.

This article, though short, is one of the most interesting in this number. Mr. Billings states that in the new library building on Fifth Avenue the public catalogue will be in a room 78 × 85, through which it is necessary to pass to the main reading-rooms. There will probably be 800,000 books and pamphlets in the library, needing two million catalogue cards. Mr. Billings does not venture to prophesy much about the details of arrangement of this catalogue, but these are some of his hopes:—That it will contain an author card for every item, showing its location, and one or more subject cards for every book in the reference library not catalogued by subject in the special catalogues connected with special collections having separate rooms, such as maps, music, Jewish collection, Bibles, &c.; that it will contain subject cards giving references to important articles in periodicals and transactions for the last ten years; that in this room or near it will be a collection of catalogues of other libraries, including that of the British Museum and of the Bibliothèque Nationale of Paris (printed), and a card catalogue of authors of the books in the Library of Congress; that near the centre of this catalogue-room will be an information desk at which a librarian, with assistant, will be ready to assist readers. The latest accessions to the library may be at this information desk; there will also be in this room tables and seats for about twenty-five readers, and about 5,000 volumes of reference on open shelves. He hopes also that in the special reading-rooms in the

building, devoted to special subjects, there will be special card catalogues and bibliographical works relating to those subjects, and that in most of these rooms the books will be on open shelves, and freely accessible to the readers.

*The Library* for July is late in making its appearance, owing to the breakdown of the paper-maker's machinery. The paper is of a special make. This number contains a photogravure portrait of Panizzi, with an appreciation; Some Popular Errors as to Old Bindings, by Cyril Davenport; The Faculty Library, by Melvil Dewey; Notes on the Introduction of Printing-presses into the Smaller Towns of England and Wales, after 1750 to the end of the eighteenth century, by W. H. Allnutt; The Libraries of Greater Britain, by J. R. Boosé; The Licensing of Montagu's "Miscellanea Spirituality," by W. E. Axon; The Central Catalogue of the Prussian Libraries, by "X."; Mechanical Book-carriers in the Library of Congress, by Dr. R. Garnett and B. R. Green; Thomas East, Printer, by H. R. Plomer; Leather for Bookbinding, by H. B. Wheatley; &c. The last article is a brief survey of the history of the agitation—if agitation it can be called—for the improvement of leather, and a review of the recent report of the committee of investigation published in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, July 5th. It may be as well to note here some of the results of the investigation. In reply to a circular of questions, thirty-nine replies were received from important libraries in Great Britain and Ireland. The majority replied that leather bindings do show marked deterioration, due, in the opinion of most, to gas. Morocco and pig-skin were almost unanimously recommended as the best leathers. In most cases no means have been taken to prevent the decay of leather binding; a few use vaseline, two use cuirine, one furniture polish. A sub-committee made visits of inspection to various libraries, such as the British Museum and the Bodleian. They found that the deterioration of leather for binding seems to have become pretty general about 1830. Gas is the most powerful enemy; books stored in cases with tight-fitting doors are in better preservation than those exposed on open shelves. Morocco bindings prior to 1860 seem to be fairly reliable; after that date they appear to have seriously deteriorated. The committee also came to the conclusion that no little blame attaches to the bookbinder for the faulty construction of his binding.

The *Library Association Record* for August contains a rather platitudinous editorial on the L.A. Annual Meeting; Literary and Artistic Associations of Plymouth and Devonport, by W. H. K. Wright; Reference Work with Children, by Hiller C. Wellman, Librarian, Brookline Public Library, Mass.; the usual *causerie* and news; the index to Volume II, by Miss M. S. R. James—a very full and reliable compilation; and a warm appreciation of Sir Walter Besant by the same lady. It is pathetic that one of the two principal articles in the organ of the Library Association should be contributed by the librarian of Brooklyne, who read it before the Massachusetts Library Club last June. The article is very good, but that is not the point. The

*Record*, as an "organ," should be able to get plenty of sound matter from the many members of the L.A.—can get it, if the Council bestir themselves. The L.A. ought to make a point of not giving a leading place to any article which has not been read at one of its meetings. Many members remember with some little annoyance that their papers have been relegated to a back-small-type-place, after severe editing. If a paper is good enough to be read and discussed, it is worthy of a prominent position in the journal.

The *Library Assistant* contains an account of the visit to Rochester on July 10th, at which the attendance does not seem to have been good. There is also a description of Stratford-on-Avon, reports of proceedings, and notes and news.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*

THE Leyton Library Committee have passed a resolution testifying to the "excellent and valuable services" rendered by their librarian, Mr. Z. **Moon**. Mr. Moon was formerly librarian at Loughborough.

THE Town Council of **Southampton** is applying for a loan of £2,200 for the provision of a reference-room and art gallery, and £400 for furniture and fittings.

THERE is a new conundrum travelling around. "Why is Mr. **Carnegie** like Heaven?" Because he helps those who help themselves.

THE **Bethnal Green** Free Library calls the special attention of wood-carvers, cabinet makers, fancy-box makers, and other artificers to the receipt from the Trustees of the British Museum of the well-known catalogue of marbles, pointing out that to the above class of artisans these volumes should prove of immense value, as the engravings are of the choicest specimens of the old marbles. Many libraries possess this work, but how many wood-carvers ever refer to it or know of it? They need to have their attention directed to it, and similarly with other works whose value to the artisan is at least as great as their value to the student of pure art and the virtuoso. Much more might be done in the direction of calling the attention of particular classes of workmen and artisans to valuable illustrated works, which they would find of practical use, stored away in reference libraries, and rarely taken from the shelves; never—well, hardly ever—by the artisan.

A MEETING of the inhabitants of **Birkdale**, near Southport, called to consider the question of a memorial to Queen Victoria, has decided that it shall take the form of a Public Library. Birkdale has nearly 15,000 inhabitants, and certainly ought to have a Public Library.

AT a branch reading-room at **Bournemouth** it has been found necessary to put up a notice to the effect that "All papers and periodicals not accepted by the committee will not be allowed to be placed in the reading-room." Notwithstanding, it appears that people continue to bring all manner of literature, from Socialistic pamphlets to dissertations on Romanism in the Church of England, and leave them on the tables. Of all the pestiferous nuisances, the particular kind of nuisance who seems to be in extra evidence just now at Bournemouth is perhaps the worst. Unfortunately a public reading-room offers special facilities to the indiscriminate tract-shedder. The Corporation of Bournemouth has let no. 2, Stanhope Gardens to the Library Committee for the purposes of a temporary library.

THE Public Libraries Acts will come into operation over the whole of the metropolitan borough of **Holborn** on September 1st.

WITH reference to the gift of some volumes from H.M. Stationery Office to the **Ayr** Carnegie Library, the *Glasgow Evening News* remarks: "Being mostly history, they are not likely to want renewing for some time." Considering the far from light and airy nature of the publications in question, we are inclined to agree with the *Glasgow Evening News*, that they are *not* likely to want renewing for some time.

THE **Edinburgh** Central Library is to be extended, at a cost of £5,797.

THE subscribers of the **Paddington** Free Public Library have offered the books and other property to the Borough Council, to be maintained as a rate-supported institution. The library has now been in existence for over twelve years, and over 4,000 volumes have been amassed. Great credit is due to those who have kept the light burning in—from the library point of view—dark Paddington for so long, and it is to be hoped that the new Borough Council will adopt the Public Libraries Act without delay, and bring this huge and wealthy district of London into line with its neighbours. It may be remarked that, through the annexation of Queen's Park, Paddington already has a rate-supported library. Should it now remove the reproach under which it has so long laboured, it will leave Islington as the solitary great metropolitan borough to avail itself of the civilising influences of a public rate-supported library.

THE **Haworth** District Council have decided that the Free Libraries Acts shall come into operation on August 5th, although it appears that the penny rate has been collected for the past two years.

WEIRD indeed are some of the suggestions which occasionally emanate from members of Library Committees. One of the weirdest must surely be that of a member of a Free Library Committee near London, to the effect that when the annual re-binding took place, some of the pictures in the works of fiction should be removed, as some of them were very stupid. The stupidity may be admitted, but the idea of a committee wilfully mutilating its own books makes us gasp.

THE **Workshop** Library Committee have resolved to make an appeal to the principal landowners and gentry in the neighbourhood for a sum of £300 to furnish the library now building.

THE plans of the new Nelson Hall and branch library in Leith Walk, **Edinburgh**, are now before the Dean of Guild Court. This will be the third building erected by the Nelson Trustees in accordance with their arrangement with the Library Committee, and when completed it will be the largest and most conspicuous of the branch libraries. Through the kindness of the Hope Trust, a fine site has been found at the corner of Leith Walk and M'Donald Road. The front buildings towards Leith Walk have been made three storeys high, and those towards M'Donald Road two storeys. The Nelson Hall and the library, which are behind, are kept one storey. The two upper flats toward Leith Walk contain a house for the librarian and for a caretaker, entering by a separate stair from Leith Walk. The upper floor, towards M'Donald Road, contains a large hall, which it is proposed to fit up as a gymnasium. Advantage has been taken of the angle of the street to bring out the frontage in a series of projections which break up the building, and add greatly to the appearance of the whole. The corner has been emphasised with an octagonal and round tower, which will be a prominent feature in Leith Walk. The handsome doorway, entrance hall, staircase, and the large mullioned windows of the various halls have been artistically worked out. The main entrance is placed near the corner in M'Donald Road, and leads into a large entrance hall, from which ready access is obtained to the library and halls. On the plan, right in front of the entrance, is the lending library—46 ft. by 30 ft.—where accommodation is provided for 20,000 volumes, all within reach of the hand, with ample space for borrowers and indicators. The library will have an open-timbered roof, and will be lighted entirely from above. The librarian is so placed that from his position in the centre of the building he can attend to the public counter, and at the same time see into both the reading-room and the Nelson Hall, thus enabling him to superintend the whole building. To the left of the library, occupying the frontage to Leith Walk, is the reading-room, measuring 55 ft. by 21 ft. It is separated from the library by a row of columns and arches. The lower part of the tower is formed into a large corner oriel window. This room will be supplied with newspapers, weeklies, magazines, &c. The Nelson Hall measures 78 ft. long by 50 ft. wide, and is divided by two rows of columns and arches, which in turn carry the open roofs. The main



ON July 25th the foundation-stone of the new branch of the **Camberwell** Public Libraries, situate in North Camberwell, and given by Mr. Passmore Edwards (his fifth present to the borough), was laid by the donor. The entrance to the library, which is combined with baths and wash-houses, is in Neate Street, the porch leading into a top-lighted central hall, where the borrowers' space faces the vestibule beyond the arch below the dormer gable. To the right is the news-room, and to the left the reference-room, with the lending library to the rear—all these departments being divided by glazed screens. In the basement are stores, staff-room, and lavatory.

A LEGACY from Mr. Henry Rowley to the **Holborn** Public Library of books, MSS., copyrights, pictures and prints, and £50 in cash has been declined because of the conditions attached to it.

THE following gentlemen have recently received appointments on the Battersea Libraries' staff:—Mr. W. D. **Harwood**, senior assistant, Oxford Public Library; Mr. Frank **Schofield**, senior assistant, Wandsworth Central Library; Mr. William **Law**, senior assistant, Perth Public Library.

THE Libraries Committee of **Glasgow** recommend that the Carnegie gift of £100,000 be expended on the establishment of five first-grade district libraries, costing, with buildings, fittings, and furniture, £34,000; six second-grade libraries costing £42,000, and three third-grade libraries costing £15,000. This will involve a total expenditure of £91,000, so that £9,000 will be reserved for the purpose of meeting contingencies. It is estimated that for the annual maintenance of the proposed new institutions a sum of £13,000 will suffice, divided as follows:—First-grade libraries, five at £950, £4,750; second-grade libraries, six at £800, £4,800; third-grade libraries, three at £650, £1,950; three reading-rooms, two at £400, one at £300, £1,100; delivery stations, as in former report, £200; express exchange service, £200. The suggestion made by the committee is that this cost should be defrayed by the imposition of an assessment of  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per £, payable in equal proportions by owners and occupiers.

THERE is a new Public Library building for **Stockport** on the *tapis*. The present library over the Market Place has been generally condemned by members of the Town Council on account of its gloominess. It is not usual to go for a new building on a score of this kind. There is more than one new library building we could name, not a thousand miles from this office, to which precisely the same objection might be made. Architects often give more consideration to architectural effect than to the desirability in a library of plenty of light.

THE **Tipton** District Council have decided, on the recommendation of the Libraries Committee, to black out betting news.

MR. THOMAS **Greenwood** is said to be engaged on an appreciation of Edward Edwards.

THE New South Wales Minister for Works, by his ill-considered design to utilise part of the new Central Railway Station site, **Sydney**, for a building to accommodate the Mitchell Library, has directed attention once more to the position of the National Library question, which has lain dormant for some years, despite periodical protests on the part of the trustees of the Public Library. It is somewhat remarkable that New South Wales, while claiming to take the lead in Australian progress in many of its principal aspects, should still remain unprovided with a building capable of serving the requirements of the literary public. For many years, while the politics of the colony were largely dominated by the late Sir Henry Parkes, successive attempts were made by him to persuade Parliament to decide on a site on which a well-designed and properly-equipped National Library could be built. For some occult reason, the various sites proposed were not approved of, and considerable expenditure had to be incurred in tinkering with the then existing premises in order that the simpler needs of the people might be satisfied. The erection of the Macquarie and Bent streets building, completed some thirteen years ago, was the ultimate result of much ineffectual effort. It was admittedly inadequate even at the time the plans were prepared, and with this accommodation the Trustees and the reading public have had to be content ever since. Incessant grumbling has not led to organised effort on the part of the citizens, and no Government has since arisen which has taken the initiative or demonstrated any real interest in remedying the grievance. Public money has been squandered in a variety of ways to gratify Ministerial fads, or to gain political prestige, but such a magnificent aim as that of providing Sydney with a Public Library worthy of its place among the principal cities of the world does not seem to have attracted Ministerial attention until Mr. Mitchell, in 1898, made the munificent offer of his invaluable collection of Australian books and manuscripts, and attached thereto a condition that the Government should provide suitable library accommodation. It seemed then that the long-neglected question was to be settled, but the Ministry of 1898 has gone, and a new one has come, which has cared little or nothing for the obligations of its predecessors. Meanwhile, the greater part of the Mitchell collection, of which the Trustees then took the custody, has been left to the tender mercy of the silver-fish, stowed away in corners, and wherever space could be found, uncatalogued, unbound, unused, and half forgotten.

It is becoming difficult to keep up with the **Carnegie** bequests. Grants have recently been offered to the following places for Public Libraries, on condition that proper maintenance and a site be provided:—Coatbridge, £15,000; Dalkeith, £4,000; Kelso, £3,500; Annan, £3,000; Larbert, £3,000; St. John's, Newfoundland, 5,000 dollars. To San Francisco £19,000 has been offered, on the same conditions as governed the recent grant to New York. Mr. Carnegie has finally agreed to build a £1,000 library at Tain.



## REVIEWS.

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**U. S. Library of Congress.** GRIFFIN, A.P.C. List of Books, with references to periodicals relating to the Theory of Colonization, Government of Dependencies, Protectorates, etc. Ed. 2. 1900. Washington.

This list was compiled in answer to the request of the Chairman of the Senate Committee of the Philippines for a report on the resources of the Library upon these subjects. It comprises, besides general works, very many books on British and French, and not a few on German, Dutch, Italian, Spanish, and Portuguese colonies; and also a separate bibliography of the Far Eastern Question. Many of the entries are annotated, those in the Far Eastern list fully so. Its pre-eminent value lies in its catholicity—it not only contains English and American works, but representative works in the language of each important coloniser. It is interesting to note that it is considered desirable in America to study up the theory of a question from a list of material supplied by the Librarian of Congress before coming to particulars and hard facts.

From the Congress Library also comes a bibliography of *Mercantile Marine Subsidies*, which is equally comprehensive and clear.

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**Toronto University.** Review of Historical Publications relating to Canada. Ed. G. N. Wrong and H. H. Langton. V. 5, Publications of 1900. 14 + 226 pp. 1901. *University of Toronto Studies: First Series*. London: King, 4s.

We have nothing but praise for this publication. It is an excellent piece of work. The value of the reviews lies not only in the fact that they are written by specialists who are really competent to give a critical estimate of the works and articles—for articles receive notice as well as books—reviewed, but in the further fact that they are produced not under the exigencies of modern journalism, but in sufficient leisure to permit of the reviewer actually reading the book he has in hand. This—if report be true—is usually the last and most desperate resource of the professional reviewer, to be done only if all else fails. So also with the cataloguer, and for the same reason—no time. But such certainly cannot be laid to the charge of the contributors to the present publication, whose notices seem to have been most carefully prepared, and make very good reading. But the appearance of a volume like this suggests the question, Why cannot one of our universities do for England what the University of Toronto is doing for Canada? But indeed, why cannot the idea be extended, and annual volumes, bibliographical and critical, devoted to each department of the year's publishing output, not excepting fiction, be issued? The universities might combine for the purpose. Of the enormous value of work of this sort to the student, librarian, and general reader who can doubt?

Most librarians we think are agreed as to the unsatisfactory nature, for their purpose, of the reviews in the book journals, not to mention the great convenience of finding books on the same or related topics reviewed together in one volume and classified. Such helps are badly needed by the librarian if he is to guide readers through the ever-increasing ocean of literature. We are almost tempted to say we have enough books; let us learn to select wisely from those we have, and to read rightly. That is the true education.

### **Congrès International des Bibliothécaires, Août, 1900.**

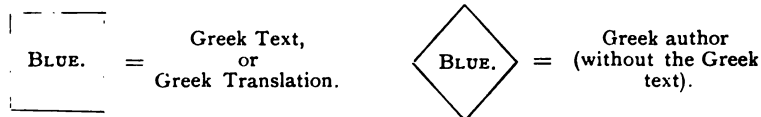
Procès-Verbaux et Mémoires. Publiés par Henry Martin, Secrétaire Général du Congrès. 1901. Welter, Paris, 10 fr.

This volume, as is the case with nearly all conference proceedings, is rather belated; but better so than not to have a permanent record at all of a most important foregathering. The meeting was held at Paris, August 20th-23rd, 1900, and there were 241 members. Australia provided two members, the United States twenty-three, Great Britain only ten, four of whom were literary men, Germany thirteen; it is impossible not to feel regret that our country made such a poor show.

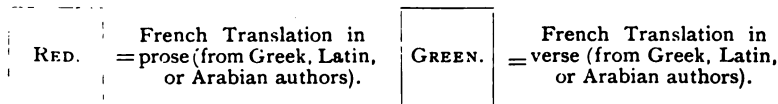
The programme was in four parts: (1) the history, legislation, and organisation of Public Libraries; (2) buildings, furniture, management; (3) the treatment of MSS., printed books, charts, prints, photographs, the acquisition of volumes, their registration, cataloguing, binding, &c.; (4) the circulation of books for home reading and for purposes of reference. M. Paul BOLAS spoke on the work of librarians and how it might be usefully and practically seconded. The information now demanded by readers has largely increased the labours of the librarian. A man might be a very good librarian from a professional point of view, but he could not be a thorough librarian unless he was intimately acquainted with the stock under his charge. In this matter authors and publishers might help the librarian in a very practical way. He proposed that two copies of an analytical table or summary should be inserted in each work as fly leaves. These would be taken out, and the librarian would possess an up-to-date, annotated catalogue. Then it would only be necessary for the librarian to deal with the books acquired prior to the adoption of this measure. Books accumulate very rapidly in the libraries, and despite all efforts it will be necessary, under the present circumstances, to await several generations of librarians before the catalogues so impatiently expected are fully and accurately drawn up. M. Henri MARTIN, the editor of these *procès-verbaux*, read a paper on a scheme for establishing a central library for the reception of journals, that is, not only journals properly so called, but all periodical publications, dailies, weeklies, monthlies, and quarterlies. If the idea were taken up, it would be necessary, perhaps, to find a new name for this new concern, and he suggested: *Ephéméristhèque* or *Ephémérothèque*, or again, by abbreviation: *Hémérothèque*.

A special name must be found for the librarian; and one could not help regarding one's self as a person of importance if one were dubbed, *un Ephémérothécaire*, or *un Hémérothécaire*. The Congress expressed the hope that attempts would be made to found such libraries. Mr. Archibald CLARKE, the sub-librarian of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, contributed an essay on Frederic Rostgaard and his work. M. VUACHEUX read a note on "a general reserve library." He asked whether it would not be possible to establish a special library of duplicate copies at Paris. In such a library all the duplicates possessed by provincial libraries would be brought together and catalogued; duplicates of these duplicates would be sold for the benefit of the libraries depositing them, who would thus rid their shelves of lumber, and receive in exchange works they were in need of. In this country there are many libraries with useless stock which other institutions would gladly buy at a reasonable price, or receive in exchange for duplicates in their possession; and an exchange bureau is worthy of the consideration of the I.A. M. RUELLE, of the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève, wrote on the same subject.

Another colour scheme! M. Henri BROCARD uses square labels or tags as distinctive signs for certain classes of books, e.g. :—



And so on for Latin, Arabic, &c.



M. J. FAIRER, of the Municipal Library of Nancy, advocates the housing of learned societies' collections in the Public Libraries. He argues that such collections, entrusted to professional librarians, would be cared for in the best possible manner; that the Public Libraries being open, ordinarily, more often than those of the societies, the members would have more opportunities of using their special books; and that the ordinary frequenters of the Public Library would be able to consult works very difficult to procure as a rule.

Dr. Ernst SCHULTZE said, speaking of the lending of books for home reading :—

It is unquestionably the English libraries which have made the greatest advances to their clients; it would be only natural to think that England ought, in this respect, to hold the highest rank . . . On the contrary, England is the country . . . whose popular libraries only permit the largest part of their

books to be used in the reading room. In Germany we avoid such a restriction of set purpose, and France is placing itself nearer and nearer the same point of view as Germany in forsaking the English model . . . . If it were argued that the rule permitting the use of certain books only in the library was applied exclusively to costly volumes, impossible to replace, I should be entirely in agreement with such a restriction, which would be not only comprehensible, but even absolutely necessary. Unfortunately, I am convinced that this argument has in view only an extremely small part of the books in question, and that the tendency of some English librarians to increase their reference libraries . . . is due to other causes.

One of the causes mentioned is the example of the British Museum ; a second is an absurd fear of losing the books. We do not think that Dr. Schultze spoke with full knowledge of the case ; most certainly the largest part of the books in our Public Libraries are *not* reserved for reference purposes. But it is, perhaps, true that there is an increasing tendency to aggrandise the reference department by the addition of books which are not costly, and which can be replaced ; and to box them up in this way is to return to the darkest, dimmest, most illiberal days of librarianship.

M. Pierre DAUZE contributed an essay on the preservation of paper in libraries, and condemned strongly that now used in bookmaking.

M. E.-Daniel GRAND read a lengthy paper on the organization of United States libraries ; it is by far the clearest presentment of the subject that we have seen, and should be read by all English librarians. The bibliography at the end is of special value.

There are many other articles in these proceedings which we should be glad to note had we the space to do so at our disposal. If we say that there is hardly a dull page in this volume of nearly 300 pages, we shall be pronouncing the highest praise that can be bestowed on any Conference proceedings. But it deserves it.



**Library Association : Plymouth Meeting.**—The Programme of this meeting is a good one. There are not to be too many papers, and those of a purely historic or bibliographic character are to be taken as read—a most sensible proceeding. The most lively discussion will probably centre round Mr. Macalister's motion, quoted on page 58. Mr. Minto will move that a return be prepared showing the income from rate and expenditure on books, newspapers and periodicals, and binding, respectively, in each rate-supported library in the United Kingdom. The social side of the Conference will include a marine excursion to view Plymouth Sound, &c., a reception by the Mayor of Plymouth, a visit to the Royal Dockyard at Devonport, an excursion up the river Tamar to Cotehele, and a whole day drive to Endsleigh, a seat of the Duke of Bedford, *via* Tavistock.

## EDITORIALS.

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## At Plymouth.

THE Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Library Association has come and gone, yet neither the zeal nor the number of those attending this now respectably aged foregathering show any sign of diminution. While several well-known faces were—let us hope only temporarily—absent from the Plymouth meeting, new ones seemed to be in more than usual evidence. From east and west and north, but not from south on this occasion, librarians and committee-men made their devious ways to the Three Towns, there to discuss the ever new and ever widening work of libraries, upon which so much has been written and said, that it might seem to the outsider that the purely technical side of library work at all events must or ought to have been exhausted by this time. It is believed that the wondering question, What can these librarians find to talk about? is by no means seldom heard in the town or district in which are undertaken what it is usual to refer to as the “pleasant labours”—with a good-humoured emphasis on the “pleasant”—of the Conference. Yet, those who are familiar with the subject, are well aware that there are many topics in library management which have never been brought even once before the annual meeting, and that there is scarcely one of the matters which have been discussed upon which something fresh and valuable could not be said. What *is* said and written is too often a reiteration of an old story, worn threadbare in the telling, which is only to point the fact that the number of men who look at a subject in an original way and think out something for themselves is small, and this is no truer of librarians than of any other body of men. But there need be no fear of a dearth of subjects, even in the narrow field of library technology, for many years to come. New developments must be made to meet new conditions as they arise, and this means new problems to be solved.

*Literature*, we observe, says of the Plymouth meeting, that it was not so “intellectual” as some of the earlier meetings, and complains that technical questions ruled supreme. We confess we do not quite see the justice of the criticism, and we fail to recall any among the earlier gatherings which we should be prepared to characterise as in any special sense “intellectual.” They were probably more bibliographical. And we do not know that librarians in conference can be employed to much better purpose than in discussing such questions as the proper function of the reference library, and the best means of popularising that department, or the value of reviews as a guide to the purchase of books. For ourselves, we think the Plymouth meeting, on the whole, to have been the most practical and valuable held for a long time. We particularly commend the devotion of a session to a single

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topic, instead of cramming into one morning papers and discussions on many subjects.

It is, however, well to remember that other work lies before the Library Association than that which appeals wholly to those who are "of the elect." Technics should not be permitted to swamp everything else. It is policy to provide something for the general reader, something sufficiently popular to be considered by the press as worth reporting more fully than they have seen fit to report the proceedings at Plymouth. True, it would be flogging a very dead horse to meet the arguments of the minority who don't approve of Public Libraries. That battle has been won, and only a few benighted places like Islington are still minus Public Libraries and unashamed!

But there remains another crusade upon which the Library Association should not delay ere it embarks. It is to impress upon the public that the libraries are to be regarded as a serious educational force. The public generally don't take the Public Library seriously. If they did, many librarians and many committees would not be hampered as they are, in seeking to develop along the lines of greater service, by narrow and unsympathetic and ignorant opposition. It is positively disheartening to one who knows, the extraordinarily limited ideas concerning the function of the Public Library held by many otherwise intelligent men, who ought to know better. There is a great field for missionary effort here. To raise the popular conception of the Public Library, by pamphlets, by speeches, by papers—this is what we should like to see the Library Association doing, this is what it might surely well spend some of its surplus funds in furthering. Until this is done it is hopeless to expect the removal by legislation of the penny limit, that barrier of barriers to the progress of the movement. The taxpayer will not put his hand into his pocket until he is absolutely convinced he is going to get value for money, and that the expenditure proposed is necessary. He spends a lot of money on board schools, grudgingly may be, but he realises that he *must* educate—or the nation will go to the deuce. It has not yet been brought home to him that the amount he spends on the provision of libraries and books is out of all proportion to the amount he spends on the creation of readers. *That* is the nail to drive home, *that* is the task in front of us.

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### Crisis or Opportunity?

THE currying of Mr. MacAlister's motion at the Annual Business Meeting at Plymouth will be a matter of considerable gratification to the many who have long been dissatisfied with the way in which the affairs of the Association have been conducted. It is of course true that the motion as it stands is only a "pious opinion," but it is the "pious opinion" of the annual meeting, deliberately expressed by vote, and, as such, it is equivalent to an instruction which the Council will, we have no doubt, feel obliged to act upon. To suppose otherwise

would be to accuse the Council of an intention of playing fast and loose with the constituency whom they represent. While as yet, therefore, only a "pious opinion," we may regard it as merely a matter of the necessary interval and the usual formalities before the reform "urged" upon the Council becomes an accomplished constitutional fact.

The object of the proposed regulation is perfectly clear. It is to ensure, and it will ensure, that a certain amount of change shall take place in the governing body without that friction and consequent ill-feeling which is bound to accompany such change under the existing conditions. Some change—not drastic, but a healthy stirring of the waters, which, let alone, will assuredly stagnate—being regarded as a good in itself, apart from the question as to the respective merits of the retiring and of the substituted councillors. But it is only on the presumption that the present Council represents the cream of the intellect and executive ability of the Association that anyone can really pretend to regard the operation of the new rule with dismay, as presaging an appreciable deterioration in the "quality" of the governing body. However, it would certainly seem that one or two members of Council have succeeded in convincing themselves—by what ingenious self-deception it is impossible for us to surmise—that there are not as good fish in the sea as came out of it, and that any change is bound to be for the worse. "And if the salt hath lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted?" We can only say to those who argue thus—and meaning it—along with Dominic Sampson, Prodigious! and take comfort in the mathematical law of averages.

As we showed in our last month's editorial, the objection brought against the motion that the Association already elects exactly whom it pleases, and that therefore the regulation proposed is unnecessary and can accomplish no good end, is not a valid objection, and for the reason there stated. But the misleading nature of the contention may perhaps be seen by dwelling for a moment on the consideration adduced in the preceding paragraph. Let us suppose a case. A group of members of the Association, believing that the policy or government, or both of the society is not what it ought to be, decide to "run" several candidates for the Council who will represent their views. As business men who want their candidates to win, must they not circularise the members, giving reasons why their candidates claim their support, and in so doing must they not traverse the records of the late councillors, whose return it is their object to prevent? Is it not thus that all contested elections are fought? And the very men who met the supporters of Mr. MacAlister's motion with the taunting reply, Why don't you turn out the old Council if you are dissatisfied?—what would they say to the promoters of any such organized electioneering as that suggested? Judge by what they *have* said of those who have moved in the matter of this particular resolution, which as a resolution reflected on nobody, and the effect of which is to give ample opportunity for the legitimate engineering of any changes which may in the opinion of any member or group of members be beneficial, without friction, and

without reflecting upon the services or actions of any officer. As thus. They are chronic malcontents. They are trying to break up the Association. It is a dodge for disappointed candidates to worm themselves into office. And so on.

On the question of the resignation of the honorary secretary, there is little to be profitably said. It is difficult to understand it, and we can only regret that such a course has seemed to him the only possible one. The Association owes him much, and we hope he will not be permitted to relinquish his office without some tangible recognition of his services.

The Council have now the opportunity of doing what they will be bound to do sooner or later—that is, of appointing a paid secretary. The secretarial work of the Association is far too heavy and exacting for any but a man able and willing to make a very considerable sacrifice of time to undertake. The Association can afford to pay such an officer a proper remuneration. Relieved of the burden of detail and clerical work, we entertain no doubt that the Council will experience no particular difficulty in adequately filling the important post of honorary secretary.

We believe some members, to whom the recent events have taken on exaggerated proportions, talk of a Crisis in the affairs of the Library Association. There is no Crisis. There is only an Opportunity.



## BRANCH LIBRARIES & DELIVERY STATIONS.

*By EDWARD GREEN, Librarian of the Ackroyd Park Branch of the Halifax Public Libraries.*

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**I**N the past the custom has been to develop the central library without sufficient regard to the branches, and where that is the case the library arrangements of a town cannot be satisfactory. A wise management allows for the systematic progress of both central and branches.

Many librarians and committees regard branch libraries as a nuisance, and only to be tolerated as a necessary evil, believing that where they have to be maintained the efficiency of the central institution is impaired. Branches must of course to some extent take from the central library, firstly as regards maintenance, and secondly by securing a proportion of its readers. But in the latter connection the effect is not so great as many imagine, for it must be remembered that with the provision of suitable branches many more readers are enrolled than if only a central library existed. It has been found in practice that to put



a library in any given district is to produce readers. Indeed, it is impossible to satisfactorily administer the Public Libraries Acts in any large town with only one distributing centre.

In comparing the relative merits of branches and delivery stations, it will be useful to give an outline of the working of each. Delivery stations are often worked by having selections of books transferred from the central library temporarily to the outer districts, and changed occasionally. From these readers make their choice at certain specified times. A variation of this plan is for readers to hand in lists to the delivery station attendants, and call later for their books. Under this latter scheme the readers' lists are forwarded to the central library, and from them the books wanted are selected.

The principal objection to the first of these arrangements is the limited selection offered. The volumes, being drawn from the central stock, are rarely satisfactory as regards either quantity or quality, as few librarians are disposed to cripple their principal library by placing large numbers of the best books at delivery stations; and if obsolete books are sent, they prove just as unacceptable to readers in one district as another.

The objection to the second arrangement is that it will often happen that all the books on a reader's list are out, and therefore the only alternative for the librarian is to either make a selection himself, bearing in mind the character of the books listed, or else return the list to the delivery station attendant, marked "all out," and so cause the reader to be without books until another day.

So far as my experience goes, I have little faith in delivery stations. Much better results, of course, can be got from a few moderate-sized and properly administered branches.

When establishing branches one of the principal dangers to be guarded against is that of creating a great number of small pettifogging concerns that are of no use, and yet a drain upon the library income. As a general statement, it may be said that no great selection can be got in a library of under 3,000 volumes, and selection there must be if the library is to do useful work.

Recently, when making a tour of some of the principal libraries, I noted some valuable features affecting branches in connection with the Croydon Public Libraries. Here they have telephonic communication between all the libraries, and the use of this to borrowers must be very great. Anyone wanting a certain book at, say, the central library, and finding it out or not in stock, may have inquiry made as to whether the same volume is available at any of the branches, with instructions given for it to be retained at that library where it happens to be in until the reader fetches it. This means that a borrower is saved a useless tramp to the branches if the book is not obtainable at any. Another feature in connection with the same libraries is the system of cataloguing adopted, which makes one entry available for the whole of the libraries. In each entry in the catalogue a letter in heavy type precedes a location number, and this indicates the library (or libraries) possessing the book. This is a great advantage. And

also on the ground of economy this method of cataloguing may be commended.

A further point about the Croydon libraries is the policy of changing the staffs of the branches to the central and *vice versa*, as occasion may require. One effect of this is that the whole staff keeps more closely in touch with the activities of the library system, and consequently the greatest efficiency is secured all round.



### A GERMAN PUBLIC LIBRARY: HAMBURG.\*

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AFTER the sad pleasure of reading the hundreds of annual reports issued from British Public Libraries it was quite refreshing to take up Dr. Schultze's appreciation of the work done at Hamburg. The usual meaningless tables and stereotyped apologies for this or that are fortunately absent. There are two pages of statistical tables giving the class of books issued, five pages showing the number of issues of the most popular books, and one page gives the distribution of borrowers amongst the fourteen divisions of the town.

Considering the size of the town (the second in the Empire) it is no wonder that the 6,000 volumes in the library at the opening (since increased to 9,000) were found quite inadequate to meet the demand; and the issue of 90,000 books is small compared with towns of similar size in England, but the markedly optimistic tone of the report augurs well for the future progress of this democratic institution. The librarian rejoices in the fact that there are no foolish barriers to the free use of the books, although the ancient custom of charging an entrance fee of 1d. has been adopted. The fact that "only sixteen volumes have not been returned out of an issue of 93,058" has no terrors for Dr. Schultze, who naïvely says that "amongst these sixteen lost volumes there are several the return of which the authorities could scarcely demand. For instance, one book was lent to a bricklayer at noon, and, owing to the collapse of his building in the afternoon, both man and book were totally lost; or, again, when an old man from an almshouse had his book stolen from the window-sill where he had left it for a moment, and he of course could not replace it."

There is no mention of "open access," indicator, or other method of issue; but, as the officials seem to delight in introducing their borrowers to the best literature, it is perhaps only a temporary misfortune that "frequently the reader cannot obtain a single one of the forty or fifty books from the list he has made . . . for even if the works of popular authors—of which there are now many copies—were five times

\* "Jahresbericht der Oeffentlichen Bücherhalle zu Hamburg, 2 Oct. 1899—31 Dec. 1900.

as many, they would not remain on the shelves five minutes." The results of a trial of a washable material, "dermatoid," for binding have been most satisfactory. Dr. Schultze pins his faith to the lending library, and thinks "one can only rejoice that the number of volumes issued for reference was only trifling compared with that issued for home-reading."

It seems that the officers, "even to the youngest errand-boy," have vied with each other in putting into effect the unanimous opinion that a library which does not in every way try to meet the needs of its readers is a useless undertaking.

There seems to have been the usual mistake in making the library too small even for present requirements, not to mention future developments, and the librarian puts it very mildly when he says that "at least in the busiest times all the officers should be able to work together without treading on each other's toes and constantly getting in the way, and visitors to the reading-room ought to be able to reach it without first having to force a passage through the dense crowd besieging the lending library." The librarian urges the necessity of providing more assistance if the work is to be carried on efficiently, the present staff having been too fully occupied to take in hand much pressing work, including the compilation of a subject catalogue. Certainly the number of assistants would seem by comparison to be fairly generous: there are the chief librarian and seven assistants (of whom four are women), and four unpaid women assistants, who are to be taught librarianship, and also a large number of men and women who have freely given their services throughout the year.

From the tone of this report we may look for liberal and good work in the future.

T. E. M.



## THE RECORDING, REPLACING, & DISPOSAL OF WORN-OUT BOOKS.

By WILLIAM J. WILLCOCK, *Librarian, Peterborough Public Library.*

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THE question of dealing with worn-out books may be of slight importance in a small lending library, but in a large library it becomes worthy of some consideration.

It is also one of the many things which might waste valuable time and labour if a simple and workable method is not adopted for dealing with it.

The recollection of a system the writer was associated with some years ago, a system which he believes is still in use in many of our

libraries, led to the following notes and observations on the subject, with a view to arrive at some system which would deal with the matter efficiently and quickly.

Before giving an outline of this old system it is necessary to say a few words about the class of worn-out books we have mostly to deal with. It is hardly necessary to say that that class is fiction. Of course other popular works do become worn out some day, but the percentage is so slight that the remarks may be rightly confined to novels.

In most libraries a special room or book-case is used as a kind of hospital, in which all books wanting repairing or binding are placed.

Periodically these books are sorted out; some go to the binder's for a new suit, or merely to get patched; some require loose leaves securing, whilst others are found to have reached the allotted span of life—not the Psalmist's. Too old and decrepit for further use, they are sent to that limbo whence they return no more to public life.

Now, a librarian cannot be always replacing worn-out novels. Sometimes a lack of available funds, or pressure of work in another direction prevents it. So every three months, let us say, a batch of these "worn-outs" are arranged in alphabetical order under authors' names and entered in the "Worn-out Account Book." After this the books may be disposed of, all the necessary information regarding them having been entered in the account book. Those books whose pages still manage to hang together, and are complete, may, with great advantage be sent to the workhouse or other such institution for the use of the inmates. This has been done in several towns, and met with much appreciation. The remainder, being hopelessly useless, may be burnt or torn up and sold as waste paper.

After this process we have only to deal with the entries in the worn-out or withdrawals book, a specimen page of which is as follows:

WITHDRAWALS BOOK.

DATE.	AUTHOR.	TITLE.	Accession No.	Class No.	Copy Letter.	Replace Accession No.
1900. Oct. 18	Braddon, M. E.	Aurora Floyd	10,860	N 1230	A	13,640

As the replacing goes on gradually, we get perhaps a dozen lots of books arranged under a dozen separate alphabets. This is the great objection to such a system of recording worn-out books. For instance, if we come to replace a copy of "Aurora Floyd" we may have to turn to several lots before discovering the entry. Then again, if we wish to ascertain how many of a certain author's works are worn out we must consult each lot; consequently there is a loss of time, a waste of labour, and a chance of inaccuracy; three things to be very much guarded against in library work.

As time goes on the account book becomes a hopeless muddle. Some lots are partially replaced, whilst others remain untouched. If

under such circumstances there exists a desire to work with any degree of accuracy and satisfaction, it is imperative that a sort of index to the whole of the books be compiled. This, it need hardly be said, means the expenditure of time and labour.

To remedy this evil the simplest and most effective plan is to have a card for each copy of a book, on which the full particulars—author, title, accession number, and copy letter—are given. This card system would serve as a stock list, and at the same time do away with the cumbersome method of recording worn-out books in the manner previously described.

The system would be worked as follows:—All cards to be arranged under authors' names, and, in the case of an anonymous work, under the first word of the title not an article. When a book becomes worn out, and is not replaced immediately, its card is taken out of the general stock list, and placed in a separate drawer especially devoted to the purpose. The cards denoting worn-out copies would also be kept in alphabetical order.

At stock-taking the absence of a particular card from the stock list would denote that the book was worn out.

The process of replacement would merely consist of taking the card from the "worn-out" drawer, recording upon it the accession number of the new copy, and afterwards inserting it in its original place in the stock list. Below is the ruling of the card:—

<i>Braddon, M. E.</i>			<i>N 1230</i>			
<i>Aurora Floyd.</i>						
COPY.	ACCESSION No.	REPLACE.	REPLACE.	REPLACE.	REPLACE.	REPLACE.
<i>A</i>	<i>70,860</i>	<i>13,640</i>				

It will be seen at a glance the advantages which this card system has over the old account book system with its multiplicity of alphabets. It is accurate, simple and economical; qualities which need no recommendation to the busy librarian.



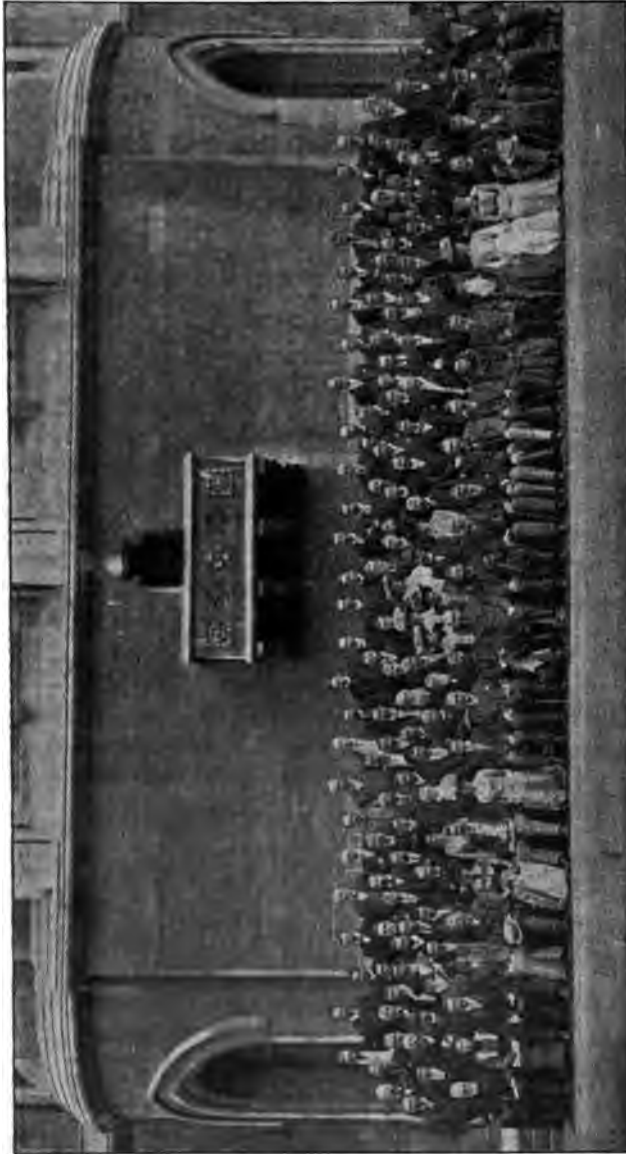


Photo. by Mr. Fred. Turner, Brentford.

**THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION AT PLYMOUTH.**

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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LIBRARY ASSOCIATION: ANNUAL MEETING AT  
PLYMOUTH: REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS.

THE Twenty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Library Association was held at Plymouth and Devonport, on August 27-30. This is the second time that the metropolis of the "far West" has extended its hospitality to the Association; the first was in 1885. Over 200 members attended the meeting.

*Monday, August 26th.*—There was no function on this, the opening day, but the Reception Rooms at the Plymouth Public Library were open from 3 to 10 p.m.

*Tuesday, August 27th.*—The Conference opened in the Western Law Court in the Guildhall. The MAYOR OF PLYMOUTH (Mr. J. A. Bellamy) welcomed the Association, remarking that he saw amongst the papers down for discussion some on reference libraries, a subject to which he attached considerable importance. He understood by this that librarians generally were recognising the great importance of assisting in every possible way technical education as applied to the local industries and trades. He then went on to allude to the inadequacy of the present library building in Plymouth, and held out the hope that some day, when the Corporation had money to spare (as though any Corporation ever had money to spare), they might do something in the way of providing a suitable building, finishing up with a reference to Plymouth as a fighting and trading centre, now as in the valiant days of Drake.

The result of the ballot for the Officers and Council for the ensuing year was then read.

## PRESIDENT.

G. K. Fortescue, Esq., Keeper of the Printed Books, British Museum.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

Sir William H. Bailey, a Governor of the John Rylands Library, Manchester.

Francis T. Barrett, City Librarian, Glasgow.

J. Potter Briscoe, Librarian of the Public Libraries, Nottingham.

Peter Cowell, Librarian of the Public Libraries, Liverpool.

Alderman Francis F. Fox, J.P., Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, Bristol.

J. W. Knapman, Librarian to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

T. G. Law, LL.D., Librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh.

T. W. Lyster, Librarian of the National Library of Ireland, Dublin.

Thomas Mason, Librarian of St. Martin's Public Library, City of Westminster.

Rev. W. H. Milman, Librarian of Sion College, London.

C. W. Sutton, Librarian of the Public Libraries, Manchester.

W. H. K. Wright, Librarian of the Public Library, Plymouth.

HON. TREASURER.

Henry R. Tedder, Secretary and Librarian of the Athenæum, Pall Mall.

HON. SECRETARY.

Frank Pacy, Librarian of St. George's Public Libraries, City of Westminster.

HON. SOLICITOR.

H. W. Fovargue, Town Clerk, Eastbourne.

(All the above elected without contest.)

LONDON COUNCILLORS.

					<i>Elected.</i>	No. of Votes.
1.	J. Y. W. MacAlister	...	...	...	...	161
2.	F. J. Burgoyne	...	...	...	...	160
3.	A. W. Pollard	...	...	...	...	150
4.	L. Inkster	...	...	...	...	146
5.	J. H. Quinn	...	...	...	...	144
6.	W. E. Doubleday	...	...	...	...	141
7.	J. D. Brown	...	...	...	...	140
8.	E. M. Borrajo	...	...	...	...	136
9.	C. T. Davis	...	...	...	...	124
10.	Herbert Jones	...	...	...	...	121
11.	J. R. Boosé	...	...	...	...	119
12.	H. D. Roberts	...	...	...	...	99
					<i>Not Elected.</i>	
13.	H. Bond...	...	...	...	...	78
14.	J. Frowde	...	...	...	...	74
15.	W. C. Plant	...	...	...	...	65

COUNTRY COUNCILLORS.

					<i>Elected.</i>	No. of Votes.
1.	J. Ballinger	...	...	...	...	174
2.	G. T. Shaw	...	...	...	...	163
3.	H. Guppy	...	...	...	...	161
4.	Butler Wood	...	...	...	...	159
5.	H. T. Folkard	...	...	...	...	150
6.	R. K. Dent	...	...	...	...	149
7.	W. Crowther	...	...	...	...	148
8.	E. R. Norris Mathews	...	...	...	...	147
9.	A. Lancaster	...	...	...	...	145
10.	J. P. Edmond	...	...	...	...	144
11.	T. W. Hand	...	...	...	...	143



12.	C. Madeley	...	...	...	...	142
13.	W. E. A. Axon	...	...	...	...	141
14.	J. J. Ogle	...	...	...	...	137
15.	B. Anderton	...	...	...	...	136
16.	Alderman W. H. Brittain	...	...	...	...	135
17.	G. H. Elliott	...	...	...	...	128
18.	C. V. Kirkby	...	...	...	...	127
19.	A. W. Robertson	...	...	...	...	113
20.	G. L. Campbell	...	...	...	...	110
<i>Not Elected.</i>						
21.	L. Stanley Jast	...	...	...	...	96
22.	T. Johnston	...	...	...	...	75
23.	Z. Moon	...	...	...	...	66

The only change amongst the Councillors is the substitution of Mr. A. Lancaster for Mr. Jast—the result, it seems, of a considerable amount of organised opposition to Mr. Jast's return. We believe that Mr. Lancaster is in every way qualified for the Council, but it does seem a pity that not a single country Councillor is near enough to London to attend the meetings of Council. By persistently refusing to return any representatives from "Greater London," the country members practically disfranchise themselves, and leave the entire management of the Association to the London men. And are not even satisfied—if we may judge from the later proceedings at this meeting—but this is to anticipate.

After a vote of thanks to the retiring President (the Right Hon. Sir Edward Fry), the new President (Mr. FORTESCUE) took the chair, and delivered the presidential address. He said it was now twenty-four years since the formation of the Library Association, in 1877. It was, therefore, as a body, more than of age, and had already accomplished the great and permanent work of raising the business of a librarian to the dignity of a learned profession. None could question the importance of an Association which so effectively helped to train men for the duties of librarianship, by such meetings as they were there to enjoy, and by the record of their results. Proceeding to give a brief account of the recent history of the British Museum Library, the President said an event of considerable importance was that, by the accession of King Edward VII., the Museum had been deprived of a trustee who had taken an active share in its management, but the election of the Duke of York in His Majesty's stead marked the Sovereign's gracious desire that the link should remain unbroken. A second event was the completion of the general catalogue of printed books. Many years ago an attempt was made to produce a printed catalogue, but the time was not ripe for success, and the Royal Commission which sat in 1849 and 1850 reported decidedly against any scheme of printing. So for years the only effort in this direction was the old transcribed catalogue. The one advantage of this was that it allowed the insertion of each title in its order; the disadvantages were legion; and in 1881 the authorities decided to print the

catalogue. No one anticipated the completion of the work before the close of the nineteenth century, but Dr. Garnett, as general editor, was unsparing of his own energy, and insatiable in his demands on the energies of others. The catalogue was issued in 400 parts, containing between 4,200,000 and 4,500,000 entries. Each year saw the addition of between 30,000 and 40,000 fresh entries. Considered with reference to the absolute, it fell short of what an ideal catalogue might be; but, if compared with the old catalogue, or with any as nearly the same scale as could be found, the result would be a just pride in this great national possession. He could give but an imperfect answer as to what they would do next. They would certainly continue to issue the subject indexes, hitherto published in quinquennial volumes. Such bibliographical lists had more than an ephemeral value. He had read with astonishment that the authorities seriously contemplated a subject index to the collection of printed books in the British Museum Library, but he was aware of no authority who seriously contemplated such a venture. As to the profession of a librarian, the librarian's work was about the pleasantest way of earning a livelihood. Nothing had brought him keener happiness than the sight of a mass of titles rescued from chaos and set in their places in some finished system of bibliography. It was the librarian's destiny to be "*servus servorum literarum*," and, whatsoever reading or study he might follow for his own sake, he was adding to his ability to carry out his duties. He doubted whether the habit of reading was so universal as was supposed. To men and women engaged in business it was a pastime only. But no reading was alien to the occupation of a librarian. In his relations to the public every librarian had some painful experiences; but how insignificant were these difficulties when compared to the brighter and more lasting memories of his career? For himself he could say that for every annoyance suffered he had been over-paid a hundred-fold by consideration and kindness. If he tried to sum up his experience, he would say, let them learn to love their work for its own sake; there might be plenty of romance as well as plenty of soberer joys in the quiet pursuit of their calling.

A paper on "The Libraries, Public and Private, of Plymouth," by Mr. W. H. K. WRIGHT, was printed and taken as read. The Public Library was opened on August 30th, 1876, consequently the week of the annual meeting saw the twenty-fifth anniversary of its birth.

Mr. THOMAS GREENWOOD, known by repute to every librarian as the author of "Public Libraries," and editor and publisher of "The Library Year-Book," but known by sight to few, read the next paper, entitled "Edward Edwards: Some Notes on his Life and Work." Mr. Greenwood has spent both time and money in tracing the sad story of the accomplished author of "Memoirs of Libraries," whom he regards as the true founder of the Public Library movement. Mr. Greenwood's paper and the book he is preparing on Edwards should remove the neglect into which he has fallen, and bring to his almost forgotten name the honour due to the pioneer of a great and an increasing movement and an admirable writer upon libraries.

Mr. ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby, contributed a paper (read in his absence by Mr. Crowther, Derby) on "Book Reviews: Their Help and Their Hindrances to Selection." He remarked that the subject, in spite of its great practical importance, had been much avoided in professional discussions. In introducing it, he confined himself to the more obvious aspects of the problem. Guides to book selection were of two kinds, guide-books to books and reviews in the Press; these differed fundamentally. Multiplication of the former would be a great advantage, but reading the reviews and judging between them was an admirable training for the librarian. A review supplied information as to the contents and the treatment of any book. There were occasional shortcomings in the analysis of the matter, but the chief embarrassment was caused by divergences of critical opinion. While certain standard publications might be relied upon for judicial and scholarly reviews, a great deal of incompetent and untrustworthy matter was published. As a practical means of discriminating, the writer classified book reviews under four heads. The first and the most useful, the learned review, was generally written by a specialist. Both the appreciative reviewer, whose *apparatus criticus* consists of the axiom that "criticism is the art of praise," and the professional "slater," had serious defects of method far outweighing their particular virtues. The merely interesting and chatty review was the most useless of all. Invaluable reviews of technical and other works were often found in non-literary journals devoted to special subjects. To secure trustworthy guides was not easy. Only rough and ready rules could be suggested, such as to collate a number of reviews of every book considered, to choose the most scholarly and careful journals, to recognise the individual character and view-point of each periodical, and to refer their judgments to the leading principle of selection adopted in each library. Division of labour was needed in order to carry out these rules systematically, and the reader referred to the American practice of getting the assistants to annotate books for the librarian's guidance. But there was room for more guide-books to books, to be compiled by means of collaboration among specialists; and these would do well to attend more carefully to the work of appraisal than had been customary in previous English guide-books.

Mr. R. K. DENT, Librarian, Aston Manor, read a paper on "The Librarian as a Help to the Reader." This was on the lines of Mr. Dent's address to assistants at the Summer School at Birmingham, noted in our August number. It was hardly strong meat enough for the Library Association. Speaking in the discussion, Mr. L. S. JAST, Croydon, pertinently referred to the subject of the limitation of the library rate, and said if the Library Association would only take up what courage it possessed in both hands, and seriously tackle the question of starved libraries, they would be able to discuss matters of this kind with some practical effect and some possibility in the near future of being able to carry out the various suggestions made. It really meant that they should have an adequate, intelligent, and alert staff. This raised the question of library incomes, and all sorts of

important matters; and, in fact, the improvement of the educational activities of libraries generally could not be carried out on their present incomes. They were neither staffed nor financed for work of this kind; taking the Public Libraries of the country as a whole, they were doing as much as they could in this direction.

Mr. JOHN MINTO, M.A., Librarian, Sandeman Public Library, Perth, dealt with "The Bibliography of Local Literature," and referred approvingly to two schemes for the compilation of local bibliographies, those of Mr. F. A. Hyett, joint author of "A Manual of Gloucestershire Literature," and Mr. A. W. Robertson, joint editor of "The Bibliography of the Shires of Aberdeen, Banff, and Kincardine." He suggested a committee of the Association to draw up a code of rules for the cataloguing of local literature—Oh, those committees suggested by sanguine paper readers from year to year! Suggested, but seldom formed, and, if formed, when do they meet, and where, oh where are their reports?

After the exhausting labours of the morning, the members adjourned to the Corn Exchange, where a luncheon was provided for them by the Reception Committee. In the enforced absence of the Mayor—His Worship was in attendance at his daughter's wedding—the chair was taken by Mr. Alderman SHELLEY, Deputy-chairman of the Free Library Committee. There were no long speeches to mar the pleasure of the function. Of course the chairman had to say something again about that splendid old pirate and pronounced devotee of "open access," Sir Francis Drake, but who could talk about Plymouth and not mention Drake? Mr. WRIGHT warmly welcomed the Association again in "dear old Plymouth" after the lapse of sixteen years.

In the afternoon members broke up into parties, and visited the various local libraries and institutions, including the Laboratory of the Marine Biological Association, with its aquarium and library—the latter a purely working collection—and the Plymouth Institution and Devon and Cornwall Natural History Society, where the members took tea by invitation of the President and Council. Then, in spite of wind and rain, the heroic members of the party, for whom an ocean swell had no terrors, embarked on a steamer, for an excursion to view the Sound, the Hamoaze, &c. While Mr. Wright, always equal to the occasion, sent somebody round with a note to the clerk of the weather, who thereupon apologised for the mistake, and cleared things up without delay, so that a fine evening rewarded the venturers upon the deep, and fine weather blessed the remainder of the meeting.

In the evening a good many members attended—and a good many members didn't—the conversazione and dance given by the Reception Committee in the Guildhall.

*Wednesday, August 28th.*—This day the meeting was transferred to the Public Library at Devonport, where an unusually large number of members for the second day of the Conference gathered to hear the papers. Papers on "Libraries of Devonport: Naval, Military, and Civil," by Mr. F. W. HUNT, Librarian, Devonport, and joint hon. sec. of the Conference with Mr. Wright, and "The Free Library Movement



in the West of England," by Mr. S. TREVAIL, architect, Truro, having been taken as read, Mr. FRANK PACY, Librarian, St. George's Public Libraries, Westminster, and hon. sec. of the Library Association, opened a series of three papers on "Reference Libraries" by one entitled "The Reference *versus* the Lending Department." The paper was a plea for the reference library. This department, said the author, was, except in the case of the largest libraries, too often starved to supply the lending library, which led to disproportion. It was better to confine one's self to the lending library than to make a pretence of running two departments and starving one. A mistaken policy was due to the influence of statistics and desire for a show of large issues. The reference library was made the dumping-ground for inconvenient gifts to the exclusion of up-to-date works. Good work was thus rendered an impossibility. A suggestion had been made that reference departments should be centralised among adjoining boroughs or towns. But there were many reasons against this, the most notable being the geographical difficulty. The pressure on shelf space in many libraries would render selection necessary, however difficult it might be. This increasing pressure would best be met by specialisation of work, which, though at first expensive, would be most economical in the end. Properly supported, the reference library became vitally important. If carefully built up, even on a small income, worthy results were to be obtained. The selection of the books demanded the utmost care. At present, if the librarian desired to leave any record of himself, it was to the reference department he must turn. In other directions his work would be superseded, but, if he began to build judiciously, any further structure must arise from his foundation. Therefore the reference department was the librarian's best legacy.

Mr. L. S. JAST, Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries, read a paper on "How a Reference Library Issue was Built Up." He said that the ideas of some librarians, that the reference library was a comparatively unimportant side of their work, was, in his opinion, an entirely mistaken one, and that the near future would see remarkable developments in reference departments. The idea was probably the part result of the great success of the loan department, and the comparative failure of the reference department, as tested, at any rate, by issue, and it was by issue that the work was judged. This failure to attract the working reader was to be attributed to the conditions under which many of their reference libraries were carried on. At Croydon the committee had carried out certain changes in the reference library which had resulted in raising their issue from a daily average of only 19, including directories, &c., to a daily average of 118, exclusive of directories and similar matter. There was reason to believe that this record would be doubled in the current year. The changes referred to consisted mainly in the provision of open shelving for something like 5,000 volumes, in the placing of a member of the staff amongst the readers to supervise and help them, in the abolishing of the troublesome reference ticket, and in the simplifying of the regulations. They had not lost any books, nor had any been wilfully damaged. His committee had

decided to double the open shelf accommodation, as well as the accommodation for reference readers. Second only in importance to the open cases themselves was the placing of them in charge of an intelligent and tactful attendant. There were two ways in which they might look at a collection of books—as property to be guarded, as tools to be used. Formerly the “property” idea was the largely predominant one, and every reader was a “tolerated” danger, to be jealously hedged in by every conceivable check. Now the balance was inclining the other way, and all progress in library administration had been in the direction of allowing the public more and more freedom. An unread book was one of the most useless pieces of lumber in the wide world, and the first duty of the librarian of a popular library in the future would not be to hand on his books to posterity, but to see that his generation got out of them the maximum of use, and if there was anything left to hand on to posterity, well and good; if not, posterity might buy its own books. But an unread book in a Public Library was more than a piece of lumber. It was so much public money lying idle, and the ratepayers and the committee of the future would very likely look at it in that practical light, and they would demand that every possible means should be exhausted to get that book off the shelves, and to keep it off. The question of the damage or loss of a few volumes, which loomed so large to them, to whom books were still property first and tools afterwards, would become a quite subordinate consideration.

“The Co-operation of Adjoining Towns for the Establishment of Reference Libraries” was the subject of the next paper, read by Mr. A. J. CADDIE, Stoke-upon-Trent. It was suggested that where small towns close to each other had adopted the Libraries Acts, instead of each town having a poor reference library, they should combine, and establish a good reference library with collections of books upon local industries and the history of the district, as well as important works of reference too expensive for one town alone to purchase.

On behalf of Mr. J. J. OGLE, Director of Technical Instruction, Bootle, Mr. F. J. Burgoyne, Lambeth, read a paper on “The Mutual Relationship of Public Library and Technical School.” The writer contended that the earliest and latest legally established local authorities for the fostering of adult education had much in common. The technical school developed skill in method, the library stored the records of skilful methods and the histories of development. The teacher-worker needed the records, hence the growth of technical school libraries. These should not be allowed to grow up independently, but under the skilful management of expert public librarians.

Discussion ensued upon the papers as a whole, and was opened by Councillor WELCH, chairman of the Public Library Committee, Eastbourne, who proposed a vote of thanks to the writers.—Mr. HERBERT L. JONES, Kensington, thought the most courageous policy the librarians and the Association could adopt was to throw themselves boldly in favour of the reference library as against the lending library.—Mr. A. M. ROBINSON, Birkenhead Public Libraries Committee, depre-

cated the provision of the largest rooms and the best accommodation in library buildings for the benefit of the more or less respectable working men who came there to study the latest betting intelligence, or to devote themselves to the halfpenny newspapers, which they were well able to purchase for themselves. The theoretical object of a library for educational purposes could be best attained by curtailing the accommodation for newspaper readers. More regard ought to be paid to the necessities of the book department.—Mr. P. COWELL, Liverpool, said that "open access" was in vogue in the reference library in Liverpool, and was now as successful as a previous experiment had been unfortunate.—Mr. T. W. LYSTER, Librarian, National Library of Ireland, said that a library was not a mere collection of independent units, but every book had its relations to other books, and this relationship could best be made known and realised in the reference library. He also pointed out that in the previous day's discussion on Book Selection, it was very cordially agreed that books should be selected for purchase by actual examination instead of from lists and catalogues. This he held to be a strong argument in favour of permitting readers to have open access to books, as the very best aid to wise selection.—The discussion was the best sustained of the conference. The expression of thanks to the writers of the papers was cordially agreed to.

After luncheon at the Public Hall the members paid a visit to the dockyards, where several ships of war were seen in course of construction, and then, dividing into two parties, proceeded in Government tugs to H.M.S. Nile, the flag-ship of the Port Admiral (the usual humorist exhorting members to be careful not to "hit the Nile on the head" that journey), and H.M.S. Defiance, torpedo-instruction school, respectively. It is understood that several new ideas for library appliances resulted from this most interesting excursion. On returning, tea was partaken of at the Public Hall, provided by the hospitality of the Mayor of Devonport, when a delicate compliment was paid to the Scottish members present by setting at large a real live piper, who discoursed weird strains as a substitute for music.

In the evening the ladies attended a concert on the promenade pier at Plymouth, by invitation of the Chairman and Directors of the Company, while the men entertained themselves in the Western Law Court with the annual business meeting. After a preliminary interval of "darkness visible," owing to a misunderstanding as to the time of the meeting on the part of the janitor, an invitation from Birmingham, to meet there next year, was heartily accepted. An invitation to meet in Leeds in 1903 was also received. The report of the Council was then considered paragraph by paragraph. On the paragraph stating that the Council did not wish to curtail the privileges of London members by the holding of provincial gatherings, which they recommended should be continued, and that "the sole reason why there were not more meetings at head-quarters was the difficulty of obtaining papers," the apathy of the London members in this respect not being creditable to the Association, Mr. JAST said that, while he quite agreed

that London members deserved censure for their want of interest in the work of the Association, he thought the lack of papers was at least partly the fault of the Papers and Publications Committee. Good papers were not to be obtained by the negative process of waiting for them to come in. He would suggest to the Papers and Publications Committee that they should ask likely members for papers, which was the only way in which really good and interesting programmes could be arranged in a society such as theirs.—Mr. JONES, as chairman of the Papers Committee, thought that it was not consonant with the dignity of the Association that they should tout for papers.—The report was adopted without any changes of moment. The following extracts therefrom may be interesting:—

“MEMBERSHIP.

Since the last Annual Meeting 25 new members and 12 associates have been elected, and 14 libraries admitted to membership.

The losses by death and resignation number 2 fellows, 27 members, and 6 associates. The roll of membership now stands at 19 honorary fellows, 16 fellows, 368 members, 153 institutions in membership, and 37 associates—a total of 593, as against 577 last year.

LEGISLATION.

*Adoptions of Acts.*

During the year the Public Libraries Acts have been adopted for the following places:—

Aberdare.	Kelso.
Bridgend.	Newton Abbot.
Clontarf (Dublin).	North Walsham.
Hampton.	Steeple Claydon.
Ilkeston.	Whitchurch.

London:

Bermondsey, Borough of, (St. Olave, St. Thomas and St. John Horsleydown).  
 Lewisham, Borough of, (Parish of Lee).  
 Westminster, City of, (Parish of St. James and the Strand District).  
 Woolwich, Borough of, (Eltham Parish).

*The Association's Public Libraries Bill.*

This Bill, after many delays, has now passed through both Houses of Parliament, and, in a form which differs somewhat from that in which it was introduced, received the Royal Assent on August 17th.

Unfortunately, it has not been possible to secure the insertion of a clause to confer on the districts in Ireland, constituted by the last Local Government Act for Ireland, powers to put the Libraries Acts into force, and levy a rate for their purposes. It is hoped, however, that this much-desired extension may next year be effected by means of separate legislation with that object.

*Lectures in Libraries.*

As the outcome of the discussion at the last Annual Meeting,



which followed the reading of a paper by Dr. C. W. Kimmins, on "Lectures under the Public Libraries Acts," the following resolution was adopted:—

"That it be referred to the Council to consider the question whether any, and if so what, extension of the powers of library committees with reference to instruction in the humanities is desirable."

The Council in December last, after consulting with Dr. Kimmins on this subject, referred to the Legislation Committee an instruction to include, if possible, a clause in the Association's Bill making clear the power of the authorities to provide lectures in the libraries. The Legislation Committee, being of opinion that it might imperil the whole Bill to interfere with the form of the measure as it left the House of Lords in the previous session, concentrated their efforts in their endeavour to have the necessary amendment moved in Committee.

*Superannuation Bill.*

A proposal has been considered at meetings of the Municipal Officers' Association that the present Bill providing for the superannuation of municipal officers should be abandoned in favour of an adoptive scheme which should leave it at the discretion of each local authority to accord superannuation to officials or not. Your Council, disapproving of the suggested change, which could be, at most, only partially effective, consider that the principle of superannuation for all municipal officers, on the same lines as provided for Poor Law officials, should be adhered to. Accordingly they have requested Mr. Herbert Jones to put this view before the promoters of the Bill, the Municipal Officers' Association."

Mr. J. Y. W. MACALISTER, in a speech full of point and sparkle, then moved the resolution standing in his name, after an abortive attempt on the part of Mr. Jones to squash it on a point of order:—

"That in the opinion of this meeting it is extremely desirable that at future elections of the Council, three London members and five country members should retire and be ineligible for re-election for twelve months; and that in the best interests of the Association the Council be and is hereby urged to carry this reform into effect."

The motion having been seconded, Mr. JONES spoke strongly and lengthily against it, and succeeded in converting many in its favour, and was followed by Mr. Councillor PLUMMER, who, while declaring himself in sympathy with much that Mr. MacAlister had said, stated he could not vote for the motion.—Mr. JAST, in a vigorous speech, supported Mr. MacAlister. None of the other speakers, including Mr. G. T. SHAW, favoured the motion, which, on being put to the meeting, was nevertheless declared carried, though the numbers *pro* and *con* were not announced. After this exciting episode the meeting agreed to Mr. MINTO's motion, that a return be prepared showing the income from rate and amounts expended on books, newspapers and periodicals, and binding, respectively, of each rate-supported library in the United Kingdom during the last financial year. A resolution, moved in the course of the meeting by Mr. BALLINGER, and adopted, requested the Council to draw up a model code of rules for the management of Public Libraries.

*Thursday, August 29th.*—The members were photographed in the Guildhall Square in the morning, and adjourned for the final meeting to the Western Law Court. Here Dr. GARNETT proposed the vote of thanks to the various receivers and entertainers of the Association in Plymouth, and the hon. sec., Mr. PACY, startled the meeting by tendering his resignation, in consequence of the carrying by the annual meeting of Mr. MacAlister's motion. Mr. PACY, though unanimously requested to reconsider his decision, declined to do so. Mr. JONES announced that he also had decided to resign. After the meeting had unanimously carried a resolution, moved by Mr. SUTTON, congratulating the British Museum authorities on the completion of the printed catalogue, Mr. L. ACLAND TAYLOR, Librarian, Museum and Library, Bristol, read a paper on "Shelf Classification: Ways and Means."

Mr. Taylor remarked that the catalogue, however perfect, was not in itself sufficient for the requirements of the present-day library. The accumulated wealth of a library could only be rendered fully available to particular research by being set out on closely classified shelves. This ideal was not easy of attainment, the question of space most taxing the ingenuity. In converting a broadly classified library to a condition of closer classification, the first question to be decided was the scheme to be followed. From practical considerations the author was of opinion that the Dewey decimal classification offered most advantages, chiefly by reason of its relative index as an aid to uniformity. The application of the scheme was then dealt with from the example of the Bristol Museum Library.

The next and concluding item on the programme was a trilogy of papers on "Cataloguing and Catalogues," which, being printed, were taken as read.

Mr. E. WYNDHAM HULME, Librarian, Patent Office, in his paper, "On the Construction of the Subject Catalogue in Scientific and Technical Libraries," said that subject catalogues were of two types, the title-subject and class-catalogue. The former was a mere finding list, and possessed no claim to be regarded as a subject guide. The class list was essential to the proper division and definition of literary subject matter. The ultimate arrangement of these groups in the published catalogue was not a matter of great moment.

Mr. W. E. DOUBLEDAY, Librarian, Hampstead, in his paper on "Dictionary *versus* Classified Catalogues for Public Libraries: Dictionary Catalogues," said the question as to the respective merits of class-guides and dictionary catalogues for Public Libraries was not new, but was of great importance. The object to be achieved was to secure efficiency with economy. Class-guides catalogued libraries in divisions according to subjects, and had subject keys, and (sometimes) author indexes also. This multiplication of indexes was confusing, especially when numerous class lists were brought out; and the author indexes were, and must be, too scanty to be of service, otherwise they would swell out to very large proportions. Dictionary catalogues comprehended everything in one alphabetical sequence—authors, subjects and titles. Class-guides assumed all readers to be specialists. How were

border-line books and books on collected subjects to be treated so that the ordinary reader would find them? Title entries were excluded therefrom, but if a reader did not know the authors or subjects of such vaguely titled books as "Eothen," where was he to find them catalogued? The dictionary catalogue included all those particulars, and was simplicity itself. It incorporated all the advantages of the class-guide. Class-guides cost less to produce, but since it appeared that only 10 per cent. of those who used them found the desired information, as against 80 per cent. in the case of those who consulted dictionary catalogues, was this monetary saving on first production a reasonable "set off" against public convenience? He thought not. Class-guides were useful to students, and might be issued for them; but the backbone for general use should be a carefully compiled dictionary catalogue. It might perhaps be found necessary to issue a series of class lists, supplementary to a general catalogue. As to cost, this might be reduced in various ways. Many dictionary catalogues contained superfluous entries. Subjects were most important, and rendered many title-entries unnecessary. Linotype might be employed in certain specified ways to advantage, and something might be done by mutually exchanging stereoeed type, particularly of "contents." Many of the arguments urged against dictionary catalogues were found upon examination to be but partially true, or quite fallacious. The general experience of librarians was in favour of the simplicity and completeness of the dictionary system.

Mr. J. HENRY QUINN, Librarian, Chelsea, in his paper on "Dictionary *versus* Classified Catalogues: Classified Catalogues," advocated the classified catalogue as the best form for Public Libraries as against the commoner dictionary form. He said the dictionary catalogue was the most popular at present, and for several reasons. These, he thought, were the belief that its alphabetical arrangement caught the public taste, the difficulty of making a change from the one form to the other, and more especially that librarians found it very easy to compile. It was a simple matter to hide books away in it without adequate treatment, and he stated that at least 75 per cent. of the catalogues of British free libraries were wretched lists of ill-digested information. The large number of entries required to catalogue books effectively in dictionary form also told against it, and the entries and information had to be condensed to reduce its bulk and cost even in small libraries. Excellent schemes of classification were now formulated, and by means of these the writer contended that it was possible to have classified catalogues in which, within small proportions, a library, large or small, could be most simply and efficiently dealt with, the information conveyed being both logically arranged and exhaustive in character; whereas the dictionary catalogue failed in both these respects.

A good practical discussion arose on these papers, which were taken as a whole, to which many members contributed, and which concluded the business side of the most practical and interesting Conference held for many years.

The members adjourned to light refreshments provided by the Reception Committee, and in the afternoon, on the invitation of the Mayor of Plymouth, went for a delightful steamer trip up the river Tamar to the fifteenth century mansion of Cotehele, where tea was served in the grounds.

In the evening the Association dinner was held at the Hotel Continental.

*Friday, August 30th.*—Whole day excursion to Endsleigh, a seat of the Duke of Bedford. Members left Plymouth in a number of well-horsed and comfortable carriages, and had a charming drive to Tavistock, over Roborough Down, with the long line of Dartmoor on the right, and the Cornish hills on the left. Luncheon was partaken of at Tavistock, and the drive continued to Endsleigh, a magnificently wooded valley, with the river picturesquely threading the umbrageous expanse. The journey home was broken at Tavistock for tea.



#### NORTHERN COUNTIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of this Association was held at Plymouth, during the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, the President (Basil Anderton, B.A., of Newcastle-on-Tyne) in the chair. The secretary reported that the membership now numbered forty-eight, and that the subscriptions received to date amounted to £5 5s., and the expenditure to £2 4s. 7d.

The following resolutions were also passed:—That the next meeting be held at Newcastle-on-Tyne, early in December. That all subscriptions should become due on January in each year. That any member who was not a member of the parent Association could have the use of the *L. A. Record* for three days, on application to the hon. secretary. That the Executive Committee be elected *en bloc* for another twelve months. That all members give written notice, at least seven days before the date of each quarterly meeting, stating whether they will be able to attend or not, and that the Committee be empowered to cancel any meeting if less than ten members promised to be present.

The chief subject for discussion was the motion by Messrs. Hudson and Hill that a prize to the value of £2 be offered to assistants in the Northern Counties for a paper on a practical subject to be defined by the Executive Committee. The papers to be read at one or more of the meetings, and the prize to take the form of books that would aid the assistant in his work, or that his or her expenses be paid to the Summer School of the Library Association.

#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE Annual Meeting of the Pseudonyms was held at the Jack-the-Giant-Killer Inn, Hamoaze, near Plymouth, on the evening of Wednesday, August 28th, when a large and representative gathering of members assembled under the presidency of Boscobel.

A preliminary hitch took place, owing to some financial difficulty affecting the landlord and his gas bill, but when the lighting-up of the room was satisfactorily effected, the proceedings opened harmoniously. The annual financial statement of the treasurer showed a favourable balance of eighteenpence, which was stated to be due to the economical use of cheese-parings at the monthly meetings. Attention was called to the satisfactory and sound condition of the finances, as contrasted with the state of affairs in the past, when the all-important matter of finance was subordinated to mere considerations of professional work and prestige; and the hope was expressed that the club would continue to accumulate a large balance at the savings bank, in preference to embarking upon fresh enterprises for the general good. On this point the Dog Fiend wanted to know what was the use of accumulating balances in a club not run for commercial profit; and protested, as a country member, against the policy of hoarding the subscriptions, when so much could be done with the money to develop the work of building up the profession of librarian. Other members joined in this protest, and urged the treasurer to be more liberal with money which did not belong to himself, or to the comparatively few London members who thought they represented the brains and power of the club. Handy Andy rose in his place, as an Irishman and a member of the club, to protest in the most emphatic manner against the suggestions contained in the remarks of the last speakers. He begged to assure the members present that, so far from the club being managed by the two chief officers, its policy, its finance, its influence, and whole conduct were directed by himself; and he defied anyone to rob him of the credit due to his eloquence and persistent efforts on behalf of convention and form. The Scribe said it was with deep sorrow and pain he listened to the statement made by Handy Andy. After years of unremitting toil and disinterested service on behalf of the club, it was very hard to be told by Handy Andy that it was all a one-man show, particularly when the wrong man took the credit for running the concern. In these unfortunate circumstances, nothing was left but resignation, and he accordingly begged to resign the position of Scribe. Various members begged the Scribe to reconsider his decision, pointing out, among other things, what a nuisance it was looking about for a successor, and how inconvenient it would be for the club to meet at that juncture the claim for petty cash expenditures which the Scribe was sure to present, &c.—but the Scribe was adamant. He said he had given the subject full consideration, even to the point of wondering what his committee and wife would think of his action; but he thought it best to pursue his intention of resigning, if only to bring home to the members in a very forcible manner the kind of treasure they were losing. Jack Shepherd declared he never heard such Bosh before. It was a pitiful thing to see the childish methods of the nursery imported into the proceedings of a grown-up club like the Pseudonyms, and he for one resented this attempt to make a series of petty, personal jealousies the common property and policy of the club. Ossian suggested that, as most of the members received the

Scribe's notification of his intention to retire in a huff, with a considerable amount of resignation, the best thing to do would be for all the members to resign *en bloc* and start again *de novo*. After some further discussion this was agreed to, and the club was immediately reconstituted as before; the Scribe was re-installed, and Handy Andy and his sympathisers, who had also resigned, decided to sink their differences and rally round the club as of old.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*

MR. F. MEADEN **Roberts**, librarian of St. George-in-the-East, has been appointed librarian of the new library at Mile End, Stepney, the work in connection with which will now be left entirely to Mr. Roberts. Mr. G. E. **Roebuck**, sub-librarian at St. George's, has been appointed librarian-in-charge of St. George's.

**Ilkeston** has unanimously adopted the Public Libraries Act, and Mr Andrew Carnegie has given the town a gift of £7,000 for the purpose of providing a library building.

THE Urban Council of **Wellingborough** have bought St. Heliers Hall, for the purpose of a free library, for £1,200. The Chairman, in reply to a question, said he believed a free library could be carried on successfully for £60 a year. It can certainly be starved successfully for that sum, but carried on—we doubt it. The Literary Institute is presenting its library to the town.

THE scheme of libraries for **Glasgow**, as outlined in our last number has been approved by the Council. The question of the half-penny assessment was referred back, pending an estimate of the expenditure for the coming year.

W. J. **Harris** writes to the Editor of *The Literary World*:—"Sir, Do you think it possible to persuade publishers and authors to issue books of a series in something like uniformity as to size and style? My question at this time is forced by the fact that I have just completed the set to date of Lucy's 'Diaries of Parliament,' with the result that I have side by side two volumes in red cloth, 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ -in. high; one volume in red cloth 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. high; one volume in green linen, 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. high (all these published by Cassell); and one volume, 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ -in. high, in blue cloth (published by Arrowsmith)." The want of uniformity, especially as to size, is most irritating, and librarians will hope, with Mr. Harris, that publishers may be induced to drop the practice complained of. But librarians themselves are sinners in this respect. All the Conference

proceedings of the Library Association are not uniform. It is well also to be uniform in other respects than that of size, *e.g.*, title-pages. The title-pages of several of the British Museum series vary in an annoying way. How can one expect the unregenerate publisher to improve when the publications of authorities like these show the same disregard for these bibliographical details.

It has always been a mystery to us why small Public Libraries, to whom every penny of income is of consequence, will spend money on printing their annual reports, especially as the local papers will always print it free of charge in their news columns. We notice that one of the Cornish libraries, rejoicing in a stock of just over 1,000 volumes, is not only printing its report, but will distribute a copy to every householder in the borough. Let us hope the householders will be as grateful as they ought to be, but we cannot help thinking they would appreciate a few more new books better.

**Camberwell** has decided to continue the opening of the news and magazine rooms on Sundays from 6 to 9 p.m. until further notice.

The salary of the librarian of **Barry** Public Library (Mr. J. Roch) has been advanced from £104 to £130 per annum.

The first branch library established by the **Rochdale** Corporation has been opened at Castleton, with a stock of about 1,300 volumes. It is housed in a building used formerly as a residence.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. John **Hogan**, City Librarian of Limerick.

**Wallasey.** On Monday, September 9th, a new reading-room and delivery station was opened in Wallasey Village. This is the second delivery station opened in the district. The first was opened in Seacombe some twelve months ago, and has proved a great success. The daily average is close on ninety. The books are delivered by means of a tricycle carrier. The following minute was also confirmed at a general meeting of the Library Committee on August 8th:—"The Sub-Committee report that they have had under their notice a modified scheme of open access. The Sub-Committee report that they have given every consideration to the subject, and, although they are much in favour of open access, they feel that with the limited space at the Central Library it would not be advisable to throw the whole of the shelves open to the public. They approve, however, of its adoption on a modified scale, and accordingly recommend that the librarian be authorised to allow students and others who are pursuing any special course of study, access to the shelves—the librarian to use his discretion in the matter. The Sub-Committee feel that some such scheme would greatly increase the usefulness of the library." In addition to this, some 500 books are exhibited outside the counter.

**More Carnegie** offers:—£30,000 to **Montreal**, on condition the city guarantees £3,000 annually for its support. £7,500 to **Rutherglen**, provided the Council adopts the Acts. 10,000 dollars to

**Collingwood**, on the usual Carnegie terms. Mr. Carnegie has come down with another £500, in addition to a former £1,000, in behalf of the Free Library and museum at **Airdrie**. The Mechanics' Institute at **Annan** will hand over its buildings and library to the town if the Acts are adopted, in consequence of the Carnegie offer of £3,000.

THE Acts have been **adopted** at the following places, in consequence of the Carnegie offers:—**Hamilton, Coatbridge**.

As we are going to press the regrettable news arrives of the death of Mr. Edward **Foskett**, the Chief Librarian of Camberwell, from heart failure, on Friday, the 27th September. Mr. Foskett was born in 1848. He was a poet, and was well-known in South London as an admirable lecturer. As a librarian he will be mainly remembered as a relentless opponent of the Open Access movement.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### LIBRARIANS WHO ARE SECRETARIES.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

DEAR SIR,—Can any reader give a list of libraries where the librarian is also secretary? I should like the librarians' names as well.

Yours truly, WM. OSBORNE.

Public Library, Durban, *August 24, 1901.*

### LIBRARY CO-OPERATION IN WEST CUMBERLAND.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

DEAR SIR,—I enclose a paragraph from a local newspaper respecting the adoption of the Acts at Papcastle, a parish with a population of 633, and its co-operation with the Urban District Council of Cockermouth (population 5,464).

The scheme, I understand, is on the same lines as, if not an exact copy of, our Co-operation Scheme with the neighbouring Urban District of Harrington, the Rules of which I enclose.

The above shows that co-operation for library purposes is extending in West Cumberland. Cockermouth was invited to amalgamate with Workington and the surrounding districts, viz.:—Harrington, Distington, Plumby, Seaton, and Camerton, but it was decided, as Cockermouth had the nucleus of a library handed over to their Library Committee by the Mechanics' Institute, that co-operation was unnecessary.

I am not acquainted with the details of the Cockermouth and Papcastle scheme, but further particulars can be obtained, if desired, from Mr. John Fearon, Clerk to the Urban District Council of Cockermouth.

Yours truly, J. W. C. PURVES.

Public Library, Workington.

[“*Library Press*” and “*Library Publications*” columns held over this month.]



## EDITORIAL.

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**Mr. Howells on the Public Library.**

IT is not to be expected, nor even wished, that an institution like the Public Library, especially an institution which in little more than a half-century of life has met with a success so far beyond the dreams of the men who brought it into being, should escape some adverse criticism from time to time. It is well that this should be so, and well that those who have the direction of these institutions should examine any such criticism which is honest and intelligent, meeting it where they fairly can, acknowledging it when it seems just, and profiting by it where it is possible so to do. The profoundest believer in the mission of the Public Library will not pretend that there is nothing which can be urged "on the other side," or that the good which he avers the library has done and does is unalloyed with some counterbalancing evil, like every other human institution. There is nothing in this world which is wholly bright or wholly dark, and the best and purest institutions and movements are at their highest only greys.

It is not to be wondered at also that such criticism should make itself heard at a time when Mr. Carnegie is dispensing a perfect cataract of "golden guineas" in this country and America for the foundation and support of these institutions, which so far as we are concerned, and spite of Mr. Passmore Edwards and other honourable examples to the contrary, have not received that attention from the wealthy and philanthropic which many far less deserving and less universal institutions have been fortunate enough to attract. But in America the reverse is the case. Rich men have vied with one another in erecting noble library buildings, and in donating and endowing collections. And Mr. Carnegie's largess comes only as the crown of much that has already been done in this direction. The Americans have been called a nation of bibliographers, the result no doubt of their having been first a nation pre-eminently of readers, where Public Libraries are everywhere, well housed and generously financed, where the library has impressed itself on the community as an equal co-factor with the school and the university in the education and training of the people, and where librarianship is really a profession, and librarians are not ranked, as they are apt to be here, as of a similar status to that of the rate collector, the inspector of weights and measures, or even the town beadle. And it is in an American magazine—Harper's—that Mr. W. D. Howells, *à propos* of the Carnegie bequests, has some remarks to make upon what he terms, or somebody else terms and he repeats as if a matter of fact, the "surplusage of free libraries" in the States, and the evils of all but laying literature on, as he expresses it, "in pipes, like water."

VOL. IV. No. 41, November, 1901.

The complaint that nowadays people read too much, and that the existence of "overwhelming facilities for reading" acts a deterrent to thinking, may be admitted. It may also be admitted that the Public Library has to some extent fostered mere reading as such, without taking due regard as to what is read, though most libraries are beginning to recognise a reasonable responsibility in this respect. The library, however, is not the only institution which attempts to demonstrate the good work it is doing by a show of figures which are more satisfactory in bulk than in meaning. And it has the excuse that the public want figures, and *will* measure its success or failure by them. Mr. Howells himself is an illustration of this unfortunate tendency, for he founds his arraignment of the Public Library mainly on the old, old ground of the undue prevalence of the reading of fiction, the simple fact being that, as has been repeatedly pointed out, the percentage of fiction issued cannot be regarded as a true indication of *use*. Moreover, Mr. Howells goes beyond even the misleading face-value of the fiction statistics of Public Libraries, when he says that "out of a hundred readers ninety-nine read nothing else." We confess that when we came across this wild statement—which may be true of some subscription libraries, but is certainly wide of the facts as regards Public Libraries—the value of Mr. Howells' criticism was considerably discounted in our eyes. The facts may be bad, but they are nothing like so bad as that. There is a large, and, what is better, an increasing amount of good solid reading accomplished by the borrowers from our Public Libraries, and nothing is gained by writing as if the Public Library was merely, or even mainly, a machine for the circulation of "stupefying" fiction.

Mr. Howells' cure for what he calls the "vice of reading," is a strange one—it is talking. He is not very clear, but apparently he considers that talking is not so inimical to thinking as reading, that with some people talking "is really the only way to thinking." But of course one can no more talk and think than one can read and think, that is at the same time. Thinking being a process of assimilation and combination of ideas obtained in the first place from books, from nature, or from other minds as by speech, and of initiation of new ideas built upon and suggested by this material, it follows that the process of metaphysical chemistry which is thinking, cannot go on when one is trying to understand and think another person's thoughts—which is generally what passes for thinking, and unfortunately we have no other word to describe it—and that is what we are doing when reading a book, or listening to somebody talking. Thinking is the turning of the mind back upon itself, and when one is thinking one is and can be doing nothing else. But most persons rarely or never let themselves think. If they are not reading, or talking, or fussing around, they are "mooning," a state of mind at the opposite pole to the positive and concentrated action of thought. Used and not abused, books which have really something in them, which have a "soul," Milton's "not absolutely dead things," are not obstacles but stimulants to thought, but the reader must spend at least as much time

in meditating on what he has read as in reading. It is not that there are too many facilities for reading, but that there is an art of reading, and it is necessary that this art should be taught. And this is rather the business of the school than of the library. A library is like life, as indeed it is life written down, or "written up" if the expression savour not too much of journalese. In a library, as in life, there are many temptations, many pitfalls and possibilities of disaster, a good and a bad, and one has to learn the art and ethics of selection and of right employment if one is to make the best of the world of books, equally as of the world of men. It is the business of the library to be representative as far as it can. And it is futile and illogical to complain of the "surplusage" of food because people overeat themselves or eat the wrong things.

Books are surely far more likely to lead to thinking as a general rule, and under present conditions, than is the talk or gossip belauded by Mr. Howells. Even though it be the "dexterous analysis of human character"—other people's—such talk would be apt to "scatter" the mind rather than to bring it to a point, the essential preliminary of anything worthy of the name of thought. But conversation round a definite subject, say a book, may be highly interesting and valuable, and we do not see why such reading circles should not be commoner than they are, nor why the librarian should not lend his aid in their organization, and possibly allow them to meet at his library. True, the National Home Reading Union is doing admirable work along these lines, but it is too definitely "educational" and rigid to quite fill the field. There is scope for something freer, which shall bring people together who are interested in the same subject, and in which the book is secondary to the conversation, the stimulating interplay of mind on mind. For the mistake made is to regard books as ends in themselves, when they are only means to an end, and that end the growth of the mental capacity and originality of the peruser.

Another charge of Mr. Howells against the Public Library is that it spoils by a "pernicious bounty" the market of the good book, which being good, is of course not popular. The answer to this is that, if the Public Library spoils a market, it also creates one, and perhaps a larger one. The matter must be judged as a whole, and it will be seen that many valuable works, because of cost or the limited interest of the subject, would never be published at all if it were not for the support of the libraries. And these would do far more in this way if they had the funds. Nay, it begins to look extremely likely that if the output of fiction is not to swamp everything else it will be just the libraries which will save the situation, and stand between mankind and uttermost bondage to the world, the flesh, the devil, and the ultra popular novel—which is the very devil.



## TWO REPORTS ON OPEN ACCESS.

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## A STUDY IN TESTIMONY.

I N spite of the persistent, and what no unprejudiced person can avoid calling in many instances unfair, opposition which the system now widely known by name anyhow as "Open Access" and what its exponents insist should be called "Safeguarded Open Access"—has met and continues to meet with, the system grows in favour. Steadily, if slowly, an adoption here and an adoption there has to be chronicled. The "British Library Year-Book, 1900-1901," gives sixteen British Public Libraries as having adopted Open Access of the safeguarded variety up to August, 1900, and ten libraries as having Open Access in operation without special safeguards. Accrington, King's Lynn, Northampton, and Brighton have now to be added to the list of Safeguarded Open Access libraries. And the system is under consideration at Halifax. The earlier adoptions were mostly by small libraries, but recent instances include several libraries of medium size. Besides these there are a number of small libraries which allow access to selected shelves. The facts then show that the system has not come to that speedy death which some prophesied would be its fate. It is not only alive; it is kicking. Now, nothing lives unless it deserves to live, unless it has "points." And the more angry opponents of the system would be well advised perhaps to drop at least some of the arguments which have hitherto done duty in pamphlet, article, circular, and newspaper paragraph as powder and shot in the campaign. Time "which proves all things," has demonstrated that some of this powder is damp, and that all the bullets do not find their billets. We hold no brief for Open Access. We merely point out as a matter of common-sense, to say nothing of policy, that the arguments and statements we refer to, if correct, prove too much. If there is *no* good, *no* virtue whatever in Open Access, if it is inferior in *every* respect to Indicators and what not, how comes it that the libraries which have adopted it seem satisfied, and that other libraries, after exhaustive inquiries and examination, have elected to do likewise, in many cases facing the considerable expense and trouble necessitated by the change from an older and more orthodox method? The contention is patently an absurd one, and will appear as such to any unprejudiced and intelligent "outsider." Everybody knows that it is possible to paint even an admittedly black sheep too black; by doing which, in nine times out of ten, a reaction is set afoot in favour of the animal traduced. The neck-or-nothing critics of Open Access have indubitably fallen into this sin of over-emphasis, forgetting that to utterly damn, one must damn judiciously

—*i.e.*, with faint praise. We feel sure the gentlemen in question will take these remarks in the kindly spirit in which they are meant. As said, we hold no brief for Open Access, and we are even anxious that our friends—in the interests of variety—should not bring about a wholesale adoption of this system by a prolongation of the crude and ill-judged methods of warfare which have done duty in the past.

These observations are by way of introduction to and commentary on the opinions of several London librarians upon Open Access, which we extract from the very interesting printed report of the Brighton Library Deputation, who, to quote our contemporary *Literature*, visited certain London libraries last spring “in search of a system” for the fine new library which Brighton is building, or, as the Report states, “especially to obtain information as to the relative merits or demerits of both the ‘Indicator’ and ‘Open Access’ systems, as applied to the lending department.”

First, the gospel according to Mr. JAST, Croydon :

The librarian says the “Open Access” system is very popular. Formerly all the libraries within the borough were worked on the “Indicator” system, which was abandoned for “Open Access” on removing the central library to its present building.

Borrowers very seldom leave without finding a book to suit them.

The advantage of the “Open Access” system is that it brings the readers to the books, and it is much easier for them to find books to their taste than by selecting them from a catalogue. When they are in a difficulty or require information of any kind, it is much easier for them to consult the staff, and to get such information, than by the “Indicator” system.

The inconvenience caused by the misplacement of books by this system is infinitesimal, and is easily rectified by the staff at the beginning of the day, who divide the shelves between them for supervision and replacement of any books that may be out of their proper places. . . .

As to the loss of books by the “Open Access” system, the librarian stated that the taking of stock during the winter had revealed four books missing among the non-fiction books. The checking of the fiction was not complete, but it was not anticipated that the missing books would be many. . . .

The exercising of an intelligent choice was the goal of all the efforts proposed for the development of the educational work of Public Libraries, and, in his opinion, “Open Access” was the true foundation of all this work ; an intelligent and consequently, educational choice *at the shelves*.

The librarian . . . believes that the staff required is about the same under each system.

## THE LIBRARY WORLD.

Next the testimony of the late Mr. FOSKETT, Camberwell :

The librarian said that the question of "Open Access" as against the "Indicator" system was reconsidered when the Dulwich Library was about to be re-opened in 1897; the Commissioners thoroughly investigated the working of the "Open Access" system, and, together with the Librarian, arrived at the *UNANIMOUS* conclusion that the "Indicator" system was by far the best, and re-adopted it for the Dulwich Library.

They were of opinion that it offered greater advantages to the borrowers and readers.

By the "Indicator" system one can immediately ascertain whether the book is "in" or "out," whereas by the "Open Access" system it is much more difficult, and leads to waste of time and consequent irritation to the borrowers.

The "Indicator" system requires much less space than the "Open Access" system, as the book stacks may be placed much nearer to each other.

The "Open Access" system, if worked satisfactorily to the borrowers, is not so economical, as it needs a larger staff than the "Indicator" system.

The advantage alleged in favour of the borrower being able to select books from the shelves by the "Open Access" system as against the "Indicator" system is purely one of imagination. With the "Indicator" system a borrower has equal facilities for obtaining the book he requires, and the inconvenience of the misplacement of books by the "Open Access" system is avoided. If, when a borrower has obtained the book he has selected from a catalogue, he finds it does not give him the information he requires, he is invited to take a seat in the reference room; the assistant finds out what subject he is studying, and brings to him for inspection any number of books there may be, until the reader gets what he wants. By this means the reader is satisfied, and the books not required are replaced on the shelves in their proper places, and thereby loss of time, confusion and inconvenience is prevented. . . .

The central library at Croydon is the only library that gives a good impression of the "Open Access" system.

Mr. BURGOVNE, Lambeth :

He considers that the "Indicator" is preferable to the "Open Access" system. It is much easier to look for 100 books in the Indicator than to find the same books on the shelves. The "Open Access" system requires more space, as there must be ample room for the readers between the stacks. The constant fingering of the books is destructive to them, and the loss of time and trouble to the staff caused by the misplacement of books must be very considerable. . . .

As to the advantage of the "Open Access" system against the "Indicator" system, the librarian mentioned as a very curious fact that after the joint branch library at Upper Norwood (or Gipsy Hill branch) was opened, many readers left the West Norwood branch, being attracted by the fame of the "Open Access" system; but after a time they left the Gipsy Hill Library and came back to West Norwood, but whether because the "Open Access" system was found unsatisfactory, or because there is a better selection of books at West Norwood Library, he could not say.

Mr. QUINN, Chelsea :

The librarian was of opinion that "Open Access" was of no real help, except to the reader who did not know what he wanted; that it required specially commodious and well-lighted premises, and that it necessitated keeping the stock of the lending library down to the limit of the accommodation provided in the public portions of the premises. He regarded the assertion that a smaller staff was required as a fallacy.

Mr. BROWN, Clerkenwell :

The Librarian stated that the "Indicator" system was first adopted; but in 1893 he (Mr. Brown) attended the International Conference of Librarians at Chicago. The "Open Shelf" system had been very largely adopted in all the principal American cities, Boston, Providence, Buffalo, Philadelphia, Cleveland, New York, Minneapolis, and many others. 80,000 to 100,000 volumes are in these places worked under the "Open Access" system, without any particular safeguards, and the results are not at all disastrous.

Being strongly impressed with its superior advantages, he, on his return to London, recommended the system, on a special safeguarded plan, to the ruling authorities of this library, with the result that in May, 1894, "Open Access" superseded the "Indicator" system, and after working it continuously to the present time he is still of opinion that it is the best system. He says he knows no objection to the system, but, on the contrary, every advantage from the public point of view.

A close system of classification is absolutely necessary . . .

Speaking generally, there is not a great amount of misplacement. The fiction section is the only part that gets disorganised to any appreciable extent.

The assistants go round every morning to correct any misplacements.

The library has not experienced any great loss of books, the average being about twelve books per annum. Such books as are missed are text-books, which are taken chiefly by poor

students for the purpose of study. Books of fiction are so cheap and get so soon dirty that they are not worth stealing. Reports of extensive thefts from this library are absolutely untrue.

The Librarian also said he does not find the books damaged by frequent handling.

He has not seen that any inconvenience has been caused by overcrowding between the stacks, nor has he found that the system leads to much browsing among the borrowers.

He requires a smaller staff for the "Open Access" system, and he believes that the larger the library the smaller in proportion will be the staff required.

Mr. Goss, Bishopsgate Institute :

The Librarian stated that some of the reasons which actuated the Governors in their decision to abandon "Open Access" are as follows :—

(a) That each of the 600 or 700 borrowers who come to the lending library daily misplace on an average two volumes, with the result that before the day is half over the library is in a state of confusion that is simply wonderful for its chaos. That it is impossible to find a book (which we know from the issue to be then available) without challenging the whole of the stock, consequently no reader may ever hope to procure that which he wants, but is compelled to take that which first comes to hand.

(b) That for business men and women, or those confined to the house through illness or other causes, who have to wholly depend upon the choice of the messenger, the library is absolutely useless, unless lists of requirements are sent to the attendant, but this only helps to prove that "Open Access" is useless so far as this particular section is concerned ; whereas by the "Indicator" system a person unable to visit the library, has the opportunity to consult in his own house a catalogue of the books contained in the library, and thus may rely upon his messenger bringing back some book or other on the list sent.

(c) That to a serious extent, direct access to the shelves encourages desultory reading, unfitting the mind for severer study.

(d) That the system requires four times the storage space that is necessary for a closed library. With an "Indicator" system the library may be extended a 100 per cent. without in any way inconveniencing the public, but with each enlargement of the library, the "Open Access" system means additional staff for supervision, &c.

(e) That the filthy condition of the books through unnecessary handling, and the indistinct titles of books from the same cause, means a serious expense in replacement and re-binding.



(f) That much annoyance is caused by persons lounging about the library, and making it a meeting house and conversation room.

(g) That difficulty is felt in the staff doing work without being overlooked by inquisitive readers, and that encouragement is given for the staff to waste time chatting with the readers.

(h) That the principle of "Open Access" is not necessary to the development of the library movement; it confers no benefits upon the reading public; it does not tend to raise the standard of reading, and it does not lend itself to the real training of library staff, and, again, it is altogether unnecessary when readers have the opportunity to call for any particular book in the reference library before taking it out for home reading.

(To be concluded.)



## EVERY LIBRARIAN HIS OWN CRITIC.

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IT is no longer necessary to plead for the annotated catalogue. The value of annotation is generally acknowledged. Yet it is only a very few years since the annotating cataloguer was regarded very differently, and we remember, in a discussion following a paper read before the Library Association on annotated class lists, an argument being used by a prominent librarian to the effect that no librarian, nor in fact anybody, was competent to annotate a library; it was a piece of presumption on his part to attempt it. Since then we have travelled a good way, and it is improbable that this argument would be fathered by any librarian of standing in a discussion in the Library Association to-day. Librarians have proved, in several good examples of the annotated catalogue, that it is perfectly possible to produce intelligent and serviceable notes to books, giving in brief compass their main idea and scope, without any pretence at encyclopædic knowledge. Not only so, but we think they have shown themselves better able to do this sort of work than the specialist. There have been published, mainly in America, several examples of the work of the specialist in this direction, and an examination and use of some of these lists has convinced us that they are inferior in practical value to the similar work of the librarian. The specialist has not the "librarian's eye." He knows all about his subject, and he seems often more anxious for the reader to know that he knows all about it than to know just what is in the book reviewed. The librarian approaches the book differently. He seizes on the points that are of importance to the reader and devotes his attention to them. One of his objects in annotating at all is *to save the reader's time*. The specialist is chiefly critical. The librarian is, or ought to be, directly informative.

Only here arises a difference of opinion, the question, to evaluate or not to evaluate. The question has been already discussed in these columns. Our own opinion is that the librarian who sets himself seriously to express critical opinions of his books—and prints them—is embarking on a task the difficulties and dangers of which are as certain as the impossibility of its satisfactory accomplishment.

We are glad to see that Professor R. T. Ely, the Director of the School of Economics, University of Wisconsin, has drawn attention in an able paper submitted to the Waukesha Conference of the A.L.A., to what he terms “a grave menace to the progress of science . . . namely, the evaluation of literature, or the establishment of a judicature of letters.” Professor Ely’s opinions are the more worthy of consideration in that he has himself done evaluation work. We quote:—

“It may be asked what damage will result from evaluation. Passing over grave injustice to individuals, we observe that they must lead to the formation of what Bagehot aptly called a crust, preventing the free development of science. We have been labouring for years to obtain scientific freedom, freedom in teaching, freedom in learning, freedom in expression. For this end many a battle has been fought by noble leaders of thought. Indeed, every new movement of thought has to struggle to make itself felt, and to struggle precisely against those who control the most respectable avenues of publication; against the very ones who would be selected to give expert opinions and make evaluations of literature. . . . It would seem to me that if we are to have formal evaluations, they should at least be restricted to works which have been before the public for a period of fifty years.

We have in this proposal, as I take it, an attack on liberty . . . And of all efforts ever conceived along this line, this is precisely the worst, because of its apparently impersonal character. Let the ordinary reader go to a guide and find a book described as unscientific and superficial, and what weight can it have for him. The authority has spoken. It is well enough for librarians personally to guide and direct their constituencies, and one review may be weighed against another review. The old methods even must be used by librarians cautiously, and they are ample for the purpose to be attained. The great point is that there should be a fluid current of opinion, and every facility for a revision of judgment should be maintained. . . . Librarians as librarians must watch with impartiality the struggles among tendencies and schools of thought, and, above all things, endeavour to keep open a free way for new truth.”

These are weighty words, and though addressed to the active and influential school of “evaluation” librarians in America, we would commend them to the, as yet, small but enthusiastic and apparently growing “evaluation” librarians over here. It is rather important to note that most “evaluation” lists issued by American librarians are

published in the ordinary way and stand or fall as books simply. They are not the official catalogues of their various libraries. Here they are, and though these catalogues may bear the names of their compilers, the critical annotations they contain are dignified by a sort of official imprimatur which is one of the most objectionable features of the whole business.

In his excellent paper at Plymouth on book reviews, Mr. Baker stated that the most useless of the three classes into which he divided reviews was the chatty and interesting, *i.e.*, the review to which the book noticed serves chiefly as a convenient peg upon which to hang a miscellaneous essay. We confess the remark seems to us exactly to fit the librarian who compiles a catalogue with his own evaluations. The result is not so much a catalogue as a series of essayettes with the authors and books as texts. They may be very clever and interesting, but the question is that of their right to be there at all, and whether the library money is well expended in publishing what is practically a volume of critical essays by the librarian.

But there is a more serious side to the matter than this. It is one thing to have *expert* opinions. It is another for every librarian who is seized with the idea that he is a born critic, or who feels that because he is a librarian he must criticise—other fellows have done it, and it is expected—to let loose upon the unhappy public, and at that unhappy public's own expense, a mass of crude and valueless, if amiable (there being great possibilities in the law of libel) evaluations.

These remarks are engendered by an examination of a recent Handbook to Prose Fiction," which we should have been glad to have passed over with some commendation of the zeal and intelligence which the compiler has brought to his task, as evidenced in some of the annotations which the book supplies, and said little or nothing of the evaluations, but the fear that, misled by the fatal fact noted by Byron in the lines:—

"A man must serve his time to every trade,  
Save criticism—critics all are ready-made,"

and by some amiable if ill-judged notices in the press, other librarians may be emboldened to go and do likewise, and so bring annotative cataloguing into disrepute, has obliged us to at least draw attention to what seems to us to be a veritable danger ahead.

Let us take a few of the compiler's appreciations of authors. Of Jane Austen we learn that she is "A gem of the first water"—a truly illuminative summing up. Of Sir Walter Besant, that "his works are well known and much thought of." Miss Marie Corelli is compared with Balzac. Her "Barabbas," by the way, is declared to be *supplementary* to the New Testament narrative, and "The Master-Christian" is said to be a "sermon," which is a very unkind description, seeing that the authoress is firmly convinced it is a novel. But this on Mrs. Croker is excellent as far as it goes: "Mrs. Croker gives a 'good time' to her reader [*sic*] without unduly straining their mental powers." Oliver Goldsmith is hit off in the observation: "One of the most

distinguished ornaments of English literature." While Voltaire is merely "a French writer of considerable talent and note."

Many of the annotations to the books are of the same order, quite useless as criticism, and telling little or nothing of the story. As this on "Newton Forster": "Those who read for amusement will be instructed, and those who wish to be instructed will be amused." On "The Last Days of Pompeii," the compiler says: "Climbing Vesuvius, the author studies Italian antiquities and observes Italian manners with a wide reading of Latin literature and of Greek philosophy." Leaving aside the question of observing Italian manners from the top of Vesuvius with a wide reading—the English of the notes is often very shaky—what on earth has this to do with the story? The annotation to the "Marquis of Lossie": "Noble birth and noble deeds should ever go together," seems like a copy-book heading which has lost its way. There is some curious information in some of the notes. Of "The Water-babies," we are told: "When read to a dying child on one occasion, the simple criticism by the little one was that 'it was like fresh air.'" Matter of this sort has really no business in a library catalogue. But we have quoted enough examples for the purposes of our text. Two observations, and we have done with the unpleasant work of picking holes. Secondary titles should *not* be thrown into the notes; they are part and parcel of the entry, and should be treated as such. And notes should *not* be run on with the title so as to form a sentence. It gets on the nerves. This sort of thing:—

The Rogue.

Whom we all love . . .

The Course of True Love Never did Run Smooth.

At least not in the course of the three stories given . . .

The compiler has failed to produce a satisfactory Handbook to Prose Fiction, because he has preferred to be critical rather than to confine himself to simply telling his readers what the books are about. "Every librarian his own critic" is too awful a prospect for the thoughtful among us to view with equanimity.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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THE *Library Journal* for August is the Waukesha Conference issue, a fat number of 230 pp. Besides the President's address, there are articles on: What may be done for Libraries by the City, the State, and the Nation; on Book Copyright, Relationship of Publishers, Booksellers, and Librarians, Library Buildings, the Relationship of the Architect to the Library, Book and Picture Selection, Bulletin and Reference Work with Children, the Relations

of the Library and the School, &c. There is a group portrait of the members of the Conference. As may be expected, what may be done for libraries by the city is principally in the way of adequate finance. The Librarian of Philadelphia is of opinion that there are three things that the city should do for its library:—Provide (1), An adequate appropriation for its maintenance; (2), An extra appropriation for emergencies; and (3), A special appropriation for some particular work which the librarian might be interested in at the time. Several other prominent librarians are of the same opinion—"namely, if the city could furnish sufficient money, they felt themselves fully competent to build up an ideal institution." The following excerpt from this article is curious:—

I would also suggest that a certain modesty be observed in the carrying out of such work by a municipality. It is hard to think of anything that could be said for this proposition, when the magnificent buildings of Boston, Chicago and Pittsburgh are taken into consideration; but I would respectfully submit that the feeling of unrest among the great army of industrial workers throughout the civilized world is growing. With the tremendous progress in science and industry, these people are claiming that they can see no gain in the position of the common people. This discontent has manifested itself lately in the oppositions of the labour organizations of certain towns to the munificent proposition made by one of the most conscientious men who has ever been numbered among the multi-millionaires of the world. While it is not always wise to consider too seriously the socialistic murmurings of a few negative people, I submit that it is our duty to consider the effect produced upon the poorest and most scantily clad patron of our libraries.

The implication that the Public Library movement has done little or nothing to improve the lot of the industrial workers is not justified—at least, we do not think it is justified in England. To a certain extent our libraries have reached and helped the working classes, and this section is strong in its approval of them, and quite unlikely to be disturbed by any ostentatious display of their merits. Of course it is advisable to conduct the movement and libraries modestly, but there are more important reasons for this than the discontent of the workers. The article on the State's duty to the libraries is poor; but we are recompensed by Mr. Herbert Putnam's long and able article on libraries and the Nation. The latter says that the government of the United States has already influenced the constitution, resources and service of the Public Libraries, by enacting laws which, having for their primary purpose the protection of authors and publishers, benefit libraries by encouraging the manufacture of books soundly, substantially and honestly made; by favouring Public Libraries by exempting from tariff duty books imported for their use; and by encouraging the study of classics by laying a penalty on the general importation of books less than twenty years old.

In its executive capacity it is itself investigator, author, publisher, manufacturer, distributor, statistician, bibliographer, and librarian. It maintains at Washington, with a generosity not paralleled by any other government, bureaus for scientific research. It compiles, publishes, and freely distributes the results of this research. It is the greatest publisher in the world, and the largest manufacturer of books. In a single publication, repeated each year, it consumes over a million pounds of paper stock; and it maintains a bureau whose purpose is to replenish the forests which, as publisher, it thus depletes. It distributes gratuitously to the libraries of the United States each year over 300,000 volumes, embodying the results of its research, its legislative proceedings, and an account of its administrative activities. It maintains a bureau for the investigation of problems in education, for the accumulation and dissemination of information concerning the work of educational institutions; and it has included the Public Libraries of this country among such educational institutions.

Mr. Putnam asks: What at Washington might be useful to the libraries at local centres of research? He replies, a collection of books universal in scope, such as no local library can hope to be; a collection that shall contain also particularly: (1), original sources; (2), works of high importance for occasional reference, but whose cost to procure and maintain precludes their acquisition by a local library pressed to secure the material of ordinary and constant need; and (3), the "useless" books; books, not costly to acquire, but of so little general concern as not to justify cataloguing, space and care in each local library, if only they are known to be preserved and accessible somewhere. Mr. Putnam forecasts, with caution, the time when the Library of Congress shall lend books to other libraries if required for purposes of research. Supposing, he says, some university professor needs a volume difficult to acquire?

The volume is in the National Library. It is not at the moment in use at Washington. The University Library requests the loan of it. If the National Library is to *be* the National Library — ?

Mr. Putman breaks off suggestively. There would be inconveniences of course; loss during transit, damage, and so forth, but these would not be great.

The Library of Congress is now primarily a reference library. But if there be any citizen who thinks it should never lend a book—to another library—in aid of the higher research—when the book can be spared from Washington, and is not a book within the proper duty of the local library to supply—if there be any citizen who thinks that for the National Library to lend under these circumstances would be a misuse of its resources, and, therefore, an abuse of trust—he had better speak quickly, or he may be too late.

We regret that space does not permit us to give more of this able article, or of other papers of interest which this number contains.

The *Library Record of Australasia* for July, the official organ of the L.A. of Australia, contains a biography of Sir Redmond Barry, founder and trustee of the Public Library of Victoria; an account of some Magazines of Early Victoria, by H. G. Turner; a paper on The Country Resident and the National Library; Some Books that should be in every General Collection, by A.W.B.; Petherick's Bibliography of Australasia, by Alex. Sutherland; Hints for the Management of Small Libraries; a Quarterly List of New Books; the usual notes and news; and the following note:—

ARRANGEMENT OF AUSTRALASIAN GENERAL LITERATURE BY THE DEWEY DECIMAL SYSTEM OF CLASSIFICATION.

The Dewey Decimal Classification makes no provision for Australasian general literature. A simple method of providing for Australian requirements is to utilise the numbers now occupied by Anglo-Saxon literature. This latter section might then be classified as follows:—

821·1 can absorb the Anglo-Saxon poetry, now occupying 829·1-4, and the division 829 may be classified strictly by subject, as follows:—

829 AUSTRALASIAN LITERATURE.

- 1 Poetry.
- 2 Drama.
- 3 Fiction.
- 4 Essays.
- 5 Oratory.
- 6 Letters (non-biographical).
- 7 Satire and Humour.
- 8 Miscellany.

Each of these divisions may be sub-divided by States, *e.g.*, Poetry of New South Wales, 829·14.

If preferred, the division by States can take precedence of the literary classification. Poetry of New South Wales would then be numbered 829·41.

The May-June *Medical Libraries*, the organ of the Association of Medical Librarians and the Colorado Medical Library Association, contains an appreciation of the Librarian of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia, Mr. Charles Perry Fisher, and various notes and news, reviews, &c. This little publication, which only contains eight pages, is one of the steps by which Dr. Spivak, the editor, hopes to bring about the organization and close association of Medical Libraries in the U.S.

The *Library Assistant* for September announces the recommencement of the Study Circle. The subjects to be taken are: (1) English Literature of the 19th Century; (2) Library Practice. We do not

think the suggested readings of much value. It would be far better to encourage a thorough study of one or two important works, or of the life and work of a single writer, rather than a hasty survey of the whole literature of 1800-25, one of the most important periods in our literary history. This number contains also the conclusion of a "Visit to Stratford-on-Avon," the title-page and index, and the usual notes and news.

The *Library Journal* for September is not an inordinately interesting number. It is largely bibliographical, as one of the leaderettes states—"and indeed the year promises to be notable throughout for bibliographic publication." Mr. L. C. Ferrell, writes on "Public Documents of the United States"; Mr. W. Dawson Johnston, Library of Congress, describes the "Present Bibliographical Undertakings in the United States." These undertakings include:—a descriptive catalogue of the library of Mr. E. E. Ayer, giving full title-pages, with exact collations of some 15,000 or 16,000 titles, and also biographical, historical, critical and bibliographical notes, historical and bibliographical references, chronological and subject indexes, and the reproduction of 700 or 800 title-pages of the most important nuggets and of a few rare maps. When finished this will be the most complete bibliography of American Indians in existence. Another bibliography that is sure to be extremely interesting is now being compiled by Mr. Frederick J. Teggart, of San Francisco, entitled "Handbook of American Libraries." It is intended to contain, in addition to library statistics, a list of all publications of libraries, and of all books and articles concerning them. All English librarians ought to secure this work when issued. The author of this paper details many other works of importance to libraries of the U.S., but which will not be of much use here. At Boston, however, a list of Italian fiction is in press, and new lists of German and English fiction are in preparation. The most important work in hand there, however, is a catalogue of the Allen A. Brown Library of Music. This is expected to be the largest of the library's special catalogues. At Harvard, a list is being made of the English chap-books of the Boswell collection, including others to be found in the University Library. Mr. E. G. Swem contributes an article on "State and Local Bibliography"; there is a précis of the Society of Arts Report on Leather for Book-binding, a report of the A.L.A. Committee on library training; and the usual notes and news.

The *Library Assistant* for October is the first part of a new volume, and a very good number. It contains a catalogue of the L.A.A. Library; a few words on Mr. J. P. Anderson, with a portrait, notes and news, and a description of the August River Trip, which was very successful.



The **Wellingborough** Free Library was formally opened on September 23rd, in the rooms of the Literary Institute, until such time as St. Helier's Hall, which has been bought for the library, can be got ready.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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THE **Leyton Library Magazine** for August pays Mr. E. L. T. Harris-Bickford, F.B.P., Ex-President of the International Literary Association, &c., the undeserved honour of reprinting his essay, "Browsings Amongst Books," from the *Book Gazette and Chronicle*. We yield to none in our love of books, but we object strongly to any writer who declaims his passion for them in the hysterical style of this essay. We make the following excerpt for the benefit (or otherwise) of our readers:—

Blood is in some of these very books, the best arterial brain-blood, and we talk of war, of the gory battlefield, of the shrieks of the stricken, of the devoted soldier, when, often before us, on paper, silent in the very intensity of suffering, are churned blood, atrophied brain, and swollen tissues!

The magazine proper (the list of books added during the quarter) is, on the contrary, everything that a Public Library borrower can desire; the entries are clear, and the annotations distinctly helpful. The "Index to the Biographical History of Essex" is a valuable contribution to local history: but would be greatly improved in our opinion were brief references added to the entries to show where biographical notices of each worthy could be found.

The total stock of the **Tynemouth** Library is now 26,774 volumes, 3,061 of which are in the reference department. In 1900-01 the total issues were 89,817, an increase of 4,192 on the preceding year. Non-residents within the Borough may become borrowers on the payment of 2s. 6d. per annum *per household*. This is surely one of the most liberal rules of the kind in existence.

**Norwich** Lending Library reports an increase of 39 on the daily average issue of last year, which was 457; the stock is 19,231 volumes. In the reference department there are 18,747 books and 8,217 pamphlets; the total issues for the year amounted to 14,612. The average number of Sunday visitors to the reading rooms has decreased fifty in a little over twelve months.

The **Upper Norwood** (Croydon and Lambeth Joint) Library has now a stock of 5,407 volumes. The first nine months of its existence was a period of much activity, during which 50,998 volumes were issued, making a daily average of 248. The borrowers number 2,606.

According to the 1900-01 Report, the total issue from the **Birmingham** Public Libraries (which consist of a central library, lending and reference departments, and nine branches) was 1,260,041 volumes, or a daily average of 3,965, as compared with 1,226,410 volumes, or a daily average of 3,815 in 1899-1900. In the reference

department the daily average issue, exclusive of Sundays, was 1,001 volumes, as against 1,052 of the preceding year—a decrease of 51. The Sunday issue, however, shows an increase unprecedented in the history of the libraries. The number of Sunday readers grew to such an extent that in the beginning of the year it became necessary to open the wing of the Central Lending Library as a boy's room. The report says that—

The experiment has been entirely satisfactory, the attendance in this room alone often reaching 600 or 700, and the total issue on Sundays for the two months since the room was opened has been 10,953, or an average of 1,217, compared with 3,936, or an average of 492, for the corresponding period of the previous year.

The above is a powerful argument in favour of the Sunday opening of libraries in thickly populated cities.

Another item of this interesting report is the information regarding the Shakespeare Memorial Library, which contains 10,974 volumes. This total is made up of 744 editions and 4,531 volumes of Shakespeareana, comprising nearly every European language, and 2,453 separate plays in tongues ranging from English, French, German, to Indian, Croatian, Serbian, and Wallachian.

The *Quarterly Record*, Vol. 5, No. 5, of the **Manchester** Libraries contains—besides a (Dewey) classified list of additions to the reference department, with a good author index, and a list of Parliamentary Papers, Jan.—Mar., 1901, which is an improvement upon the “Quarterly List” issued by the Government, inasmuch as it is arranged alphabetically, under subject, instead of numerically—an index of 232 photographs taken during a photographic survey of Manchester and Salford by members of the Amateur Photographic Society. This is undoubtedly a valuable acquisition to the local collection, and cannot but prove interesting to future generations of the district. Such a method of contributing to local history is worth adopting in towns that are growing or changing with the times.

In **Whitechapel** (Stepney) Public Library the total stock is 20,734 volumes. The total issue for 1900-01 was 142,774, a daily average (including Sundays) of 555—an increase of 26 on that of 1899-1900. The Sunday average has decreased 13. During 1899-1901 there were 104,406 visitors to the Museum. This department of the institution is receiving a good deal of attention; a splendid collection is rapidly accumulating, and attempts are being made to attract and interest the children of the neighbourhood. Two exhibitions of bees were held, and half-hour demonstrations given to 2,458 school children and 111 teachers.

The issue at **Barrow-in-Furness** has surpassed the previous year's total of 97,144 by 9,754. This is particularly gratifying in view of the decreased fiction issue. The total stock is 22,491 volumes; the local collection contains over 300.

The Report of the **Rochdale** Public Library for 1900-01 does not record a very great improvement upon the work of the preceding year. Although 429 volumes were added to the reference department, bringing the stock (which embraces 1,471 boys' books) to 15,623, yet the daily average issue is stationary, namely 229. In the lending library the daily average shows an increase of 20 on that of last year, which was 433. The value of this achievement is, however, nullified to a certain extent when we know that "the borough was recently extended," and "that upwards of one hundred" additional borrowers were enrolled. There were 1,165 book additions during the year. It is announced that the near future will see a branch formed at Castleton Moor, and also that the sanction of the Local Government Board to borrow £5,000 is all the Council require to enable them to proceed to carry out a scheme for the extension of the library buildings.

The annotations to the **Finsbury** (Clerkenwell) *Quarterly Guide* for July are as pregnant as ever. We believe, however, that footnotes might be used to advantage in one or two cases, notably in that of the contents note to Churton Collins' "Ephemera Critica," where the obscurity of the "Illustrious Obscure," a review of Wright's "West Country Poets," is only further emphasised by the omission of some explanatory note.

The 1900-01 Report of the **Westminster** Public Libraries—St George, Hanover Square (two libraries), St. Margaret and St. John (two libraries), and St. Martin's—records a general progress. The total stock (exclusive of 900 books belonging to the Geologists' Association, housed in St. Martin's Library and available for public use) is 98,118 volumes. The combined issues of the St. George lending and reference libraries amounted to 194,563, an increase of 14,875 on 1899-1900. We note with pleasure the reduction of the fiction percentage from 51.16 last year to 48.47. St. Margaret and St. John Libraries issued 128,470 volumes during the year, a daily average of 422. The total stock is 29,097 volumes. St. Martin's (lending and reference departments) contains 34,032 volumes. In 1899 the total daily average was 465, while for the fifteen months ending March, 1901, it was 452½.

*Our Library, Aston Manor's* quarterly circular for July, has some paragraphs on recent additions, a list of "Books for Holiday Wanderings, Far and Near," "Notes for the Novel Reader," "For Boys and Girls," and three pages of a "to be continued" list of fiction added since the publication of the catalogue. It seems curious to us, however, that books in this fiction list should also be treated in the "Notes for the Novel Reader." There are at least three or four instances of this, and we believe it would have been more practical had the "Notes" in these cases been attached to the entries in the list, after being cut down by the omission of the common-place criticisms contained in them. We have never hesitated to express our disapproval of the pseudo-criticism contained in "Notes" of this

description: no librarian has the time to read a batch of miscellaneous books each month or quarter, and write authoritative reviews. The present number of this publication contains a proof of what we say—the ten-line paragraph on Rider Haggard's "Lysbeth" is lifted from *The Speaker*, without material alteration.

The 110th Annual Report of the Stirling's and **Glasgow** Public (Subscription) Library includes an address, as charming as it is instructive, on "The Genesis of Libraries in Scotland in connection with the Early Printers There," by Mr. John Scott, C.B. An increase of 4,971 on the total issues of both lending and reference departments is chronicled. "This is the most flourishing report I have ever read for the library," remarked the hon. sec., "and I have been secretary for over twenty-one years."

The July-August number of the **Croydon Readers' Index** contains an extract from the Annual Report, lists of works by Besant and Buchanan, very fully annotated lists of additions to the reference and lending departments, and an annotated reading list on King Alfred.

**Manchester** has issued an excellent annotated bibliography of Alfred as one of its occasional lists.

**Cardiff Public Library Journal** contains a short list on King Alfred, but no notes are given.

Most of our readers have doubtless seen the "Select Bibliography" in a recent number of *Literature*, which, for general readers, is perhaps one of the most valuable recently published.

[*Notices of Leeds Institute, Dewsbury, Lincoln, Shoreditch, Willesden Green, and West Hartlepool publications are unavoidably held over.*]



## A DUTCH WRITER ON PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

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I N the "Vragen des Tijds," (July-August) A. J. van Huffel, Jr., tells the Dutch people how far they are behind the English and American in the provision of literature for all. The article is like a condensed "Greenwood," and strongly advocates the establishment of Public Libraries as a means of social progress. After reviewing the Public Library movement in England and America, the writer describes two representative Public Libraries, Birmingham and Chicago, and then tells his countrymen to go and do likewise. As long ago as 1862, a well known bookseller of Amsterdam wrote: "The Americans and the English have a great and powerful means [the Public Library] of spreading knowledge, which is sadly lacking here . . . and I believe that the establishment of Public Libraries for the unlearned public in our large towns would be of immense value."

There are "people's libraries"\* in Holland, but the information concerning them is anything but cheering. Towns like Rotterdam and Utrecht are satisfied with collections of 4,100 and 2,800 volumes respectively, which are open to the public only an hour or two each day. "Dordrecht is the only place in our country which has made a step in the right direction; in 1899 a library and reading room were established in the spirit of the English and American 'Free Libraries.'"

The writer gives information regarding the work carried on in the principal towns, and the following examples (which seem to represent the normal state of affairs) justify his complaint that the hours of opening are insufficient.

"Deventer: daily, 1—2; in 1898 issued 1,125 volumes; is the management satisfied with this?"

"Middleburg: daily, 2—5; in 1899 issued 897 volumes; 1,007 volumes were consulted in reading room; does the management call this altogether satisfactory?"

As this review represents the intellectual section of society in Holland, it is most likely that the reforms called for will not be shelved for another 40 years.

T. E. M.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

THE offer of Mr. Carnegie to provide a Free Library building for Montrose on his usual conditions has spurred the Rev. A. E. Garvie to lecture in the Congregational Church on "The Plea of Christianity for a Free Library." The text was taken from 1st Corinthians, chapter xii., verse 26, and the discourse of the reverend gentleman was marked by some sound common-sense. He said that society was more and more becoming a living body, in which, if one member suffered or prospered all members suffered or prospered. At the present moment they wanted competence—industrially, commercially—and he would add (he was not referring to anybody) politically. Competence meant education; an ignorant democracy was dangerous to any State. It was simply ludicrous to say that the present popular education was adequate to the demand. The school must be supplemented and completed by a library, and they were simply mocking their boys and girls by teaching them to read and write, and then allowing them at the age of fourteen to go out into the world to earn their daily bread without making some effort to follow it up. Society that had conferred

\* The work of the Society for Popular Welfare (Maatschappij tot nut van't algemeen.)

on boys and girls the power of reading was in some measure responsible if that power was abused—if, instead of good reading, these boys and girls turned to bad reading. Alluding to the attack on fiction, which opponents of the library said would be most read, he pointed out that the parables of Christ were drawn from the imagination, and that morals were conveyed to the people by means of fiction. As for the cry of the booksellers, it was an old one, having been heard at Ephesus in the time of Paul.

WE doubt if many people realise what a marvellous compilation of research is comprised in a good atlas of the world. Few realise what a mine of wealth it is when properly used, and fewer realise how much our success as individuals and as a nation depends on an intelligent application of geographical knowledge. It tends to expand our mental horizon, our sympathies, our views of life and work. The great commercial success of our country in the past was mainly owing to the fact that for long we were the explorers of the world, and that we discovered and annexed the foreign markets for our trade. Our enterprise made us the richest people in the world, but with wealth has come ease and luxury, and we now leave most of the exploring to the Germans. This the Germans are not slow to do and to profit by.

THE duties of the poor librarian in the future will be of a multifarious nature, and as onerous as multifarious, if there are not false prophets in the land. One of his duties, according to Lord Rosebery, will be that of a kind of literary taster. Mr. Dewey thinks he will be a bookseller among other things. But it is left for *The Standard* to make the most startling suggestion, at the conclusion of a leader on the Plymouth meeting of the Library Association. "Perhaps the time will come," it observes, "when part of the work of a librarian will consist in the suppression of superfluous printed matter." At present, however, it does not look very likely, seeing that librarians as a body are almost tumbling over one another in their eagerness to preserve superfluous printed matter. But if he ever does play the part of a literary dust-destroyer, he is pretty safe to begin with newspapers. Popular illustrated magazines would go next. Of books proper, series might well follow the magazines, and, generally speaking, all books about books, which people read instead of studying the originals. That might do for a beginning.

THE strange idea of the State Minister for Works of placing the proposed new Public Library of **New South Wales** in a railway station has apparently been abandoned.

WE beg to endorse the following observations of *The Liverpool Mercury* on the always interesting subject of **librarians' salaries**, except as to the bad management of Public Libraries, which, as a rule, and comparing them with other departments of corporations, are, we believe, surprisingly well managed:—

"There is, at least, one remark in the speech of Mr. G. K. Fortescue, the president of the Library Association for the current

year, which deserves the serious attention of library committees and others. Librarianship, he urged, is 'sadly underpaid,' and he suggested that municipal authorities would do well to increase the miserable income now attached to the office of librarian in many places. Even from a business standpoint it would be wise to pay a sum sufficient to secure the services of a competent man, for in almost every borough thousands of pounds are annually spent upon Public Libraries; and, as it largely depends on the librarian whether these moneys are laid out to the best advantage, it is obviously worth while to obtain an efficient adviser. At present this consideration is lost sight of, and librarians do not hold a very high rank among public officials. Town clerks, medical officers of health, School Board clerks, are all adequately remunerated; but the librarians are denied the salaries which are cheerfully paid to the headmasters of elementary schools. Is it, then, a matter for surprise that our Public Libraries are, as a rule, badly managed, and that the selection of books has all the appearance of being conducted on the principle of an unlucky lottery? The Keeper of Printed Books at the British Museum is undoubtedly in the right, and the sooner municipalities recognise the importance of a librarian's work the better both for the finances and the brains of the community."

THE **Birkenhead** Free Libraries Committee have decided to employ lady assistants, the service by boys in the lending department not having given satisfaction.

THE laying of the foundation-stone of the **Falkirk** Public Library, which is to cost £6,000, and to which Mr. Carnegie contributed £3,000, the site being provided by the Town Council, took place on October 12th. Mr. Hew Morrison, Edinburgh's principal librarian, gave an address.

THE **Festiniog** Urban Council have decided to close two of the branch libraries owing to lack of funds.

A SUM of £1,000 has been bequeathed to the Parish Council of **Portainorivic** by a Mrs. Thompson to provide a public hall, including a room for a Public Library.

**Bristol.** The new Central Library. At the last meeting of the Bristol Libraries Committee, the chief Librarian, Mr. Norris Mathews, was instructed to prepare a report dealing with the interior requirements and accommodation to be provided in the Stuckey Lean Library, which is to be erected in College Green.

THE **Stafford** Free Library (reading-room and reference department) is to be opened on Sunday evenings for an experimental period of three months.

A PUBLIC reading room and library has been opened at **Abergavenny**.

AT **Devonport**, the Public Library loans works bearing on the work of students to the Technical Schools for the session.

A MOTION has been passed by the Borough Council of **Finsbury**, to levy the library rate over the whole of the borough. St. Luke's has held a public meeting to protest against the action of the Council, on the ground that the Cripplegate Institute supplies their needs. We sincerely hope the opposition to the enlightened action of the Council will not be successful. A penny rate in St. Luke's realises £3,000.

A BRANCH of the **Bradford** Free Libraries has been inaugurated in the Mechanics' Institute, at Eccleshill, which is one of the districts brought into the town by the recent extension. It opens with 14,052 volumes.

THE following resolution has been passed by the **Chesterfield** Library Committee:—"That no religious periodical be provided for use in the reading room." The far better plan is to accept all gifts of this class of periodical, and purchase none—the usual course we fancy.

MR. J. **Hoale**, of Leyton, has been appointed Librarian of the Kendal Public Library, Mr. **Singleton**, whom he succeeds, having been appointed Librarian of Accrington.

THE Municipal Art Gallery and Free Library at **Bury**, which has been erected at a cost of £30,000, was opened on the 9th October, by the Earl of Derby, amid great public rejoicing. The building, which is the most imposing in the town, is situated at the corner of Moss Lane and Silver Street, and has a frontage to Moss Lane of 110 ft. and to Silver Street of 105 ft. The ground floor has been devoted to library purposes, and will be entered by a vestibule 12 ft. wide. This vestibule opens direct into the borrowers' space, which is 40 ft. wide. To the right of the borrowers' space swing doors open into the ladies' and reference rooms, and to the left admission to the magazine and reading rooms is gained in a similar manner. Separate conveniences are provided on each side of the entrance, and are entered from the borrowers' space through ante-rooms. A librarian's room and a large book store are arranged in conjunction with the borrowers' space. The basement is chiefly devoted to stores under the library, and connected therewith by a spiral staircase is a large book store. The library is to contain 14,000 volumes, of which 12,000 will be in the lending department, and 2,000 in the reference library.

THE opening, by the Mayor, of the Roath branch of the **Cardiff** Free Libraries is another link in the chain of libraries which the committee is establishing in the go-ahead metropolis of South Wales. The new library is a building of substantial and handsome appearance. The cost—£2,480—hardly admitted of an elaborate design, but both the interior and the exterior have interesting lines, and such ornamentation as the architects (Messrs. Teather and Wilson, of Queen Street) have adopted follows the Renaissance style. The exterior facing is in red pressed brick, with large windows, which contribute to an effective scheme of lighting. The interior is lined with buff brick with a glazed brick dado, and the arrangements have been conceived with the view



to economising the staff and, at the same time, ensuring perfect supervision. By the adoption of the arcade system, in itself an effective design architecturally, the large hall is conveniently divided into compartments for boys and ladies, and the usual rooms for the staff are provided. The library is well lighted, well ventilated, and provided with storage accommodation for 11,000 volumes, capable of expansion to 17,000. A small branch has also been opened at Grangetown, the building having cost £3,521. It starts with 5,000 volumes, 3,000 of these having been presented by Councillor Brain.

A BRANCH of the **Manchester** Public Libraries was opened at Blackley, in connection with a Public Institute, on October 10th. Part of the cost (about £5,000) has been contributed by the David Lewis Trustees.

THE Public Libraries Acts have been adopted by the **Neston and Parkgate** District Council.

BY the terms of the agreement between Mr. Andrew Carnegie and the City of **New York**, there are to be sixty-five free branch libraries in the city, at an average cost of nearly £16,000. The city is to furnish the sites and maintenance.

THE **Belfast** Public Library has purchased a collection of the most frequently used telegraphic codes, and placed them in a special case in the reference library for the use of the foreign trading sections of the community.

MR. BASIL CHAMPNEYS has been retained by the **Kingston** Library Committee to adjudicate upon the plans for the new building.

WE have decided to chronicle no more **Carnegie** offers, but only the acceptances. **Larbert** has adopted the Acts, and receives £3,000 for a building. Mr. and Mrs. Carnegie opened the library at **Bonar Bridge**, donated by Mr. Carnegie, on September 28th.

MR. JOHN WILSON, M.P., has added £500 to the £500 gifted by Mr. Carnegie, to clear off the debt on the **Airdrie** Public Library.

A BRANCH newsroom has been opened in the new police buildings at Laygate Lane, **South Shields**.

THE new Free Library and Technical Institute which has been erected in **Gosport**, at an outlay of between £7,000 and £8,000, was formally opened on the 25th September. It is well situated at the corner of Clarence Road South, and faces the Thorngate Hall and the Urban District Council's offices. The public entrance to the free library department is placed in the centre of the Walpole Street facade, the entrance porch giving direct access to the lending library, the reading and news-room, the reference reading-room and the librarian, whose centrally placed office affords every facility for the efficient supervision of all the rooms comprised in the library department.



fair issue could not be worked up by arranging the papers in pamphlet boxes on open shelves, and utilizing the printed monthly and quarterly lists as a catalogue. This was done, and a circular letter was sent to the various political clubs, head teachers, the Chamber of Commerce, and other institutions in the town, calling attention to the receipt of the Parliamentary Papers and describing briefly the method of arrangement. So far the result has been encouraging. During August we had 160 consultations, in September 131, as compared with an odd one occasionally before the present means were taken of bringing them to the notice of the public. The details which follow concern the sizes and lettering of the boxes and the arrangement of the papers therein.

There are three distinct series of Parliamentary Papers. (House of Lords papers are disregarded, as it is doubtful if any Public Library receives them, and they appear amongst the Commons papers also.)

(1) *Papers by Command.* These are papers "presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty."

(2) *House of Commons Reports and Papers.* These are reports "ordered by the House of Commons to be printed."

(3) *House of Commons Bills.*

These documents are in two sizes, folio and quarto, the folio being about  $33\cdot3 \times 21$  cm., or  $13\frac{3}{8} \times 8\frac{1}{4}$  in., and the quarto  $24\cdot5 \times 15\cdot3$  cm., or  $9\frac{5}{8} \times 6$  in. As both sizes are found in each series, and the numbering is continuous in each, it is more convenient to file all in folio boxes, whether folio size or not, with the exception of certain "Command" papers, to be mentioned presently. In one library the quarto papers are opened out flat from the centre and filed like this:—



but this method is not to be recommended.

The dimensions of the parliamentary pamphlet boxes are:

*Folio Box—*

$36 \times 25\cdot5 \times 12\cdot7$ cm.	}	Outside.
$14\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{8} \times 5$ in.		
$13\frac{3}{8} \times 8\frac{7}{8} \times 4\frac{3}{4}$ in.	}	Inside.
$34\cdot5 \times 22\cdot5 \times 12$ cm.		

This box will take all the papers except a few "Command" papers—Colonial and Diplomatic and Consular Reports—for which it is worth while to make special provision, as they are one size, quarto, and always arrange together without any folio publications coming in between them. The box for these will be:

## THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE usual monthly meeting of the Pseudonyms was presided over by "Gil Blas," who introduced the subject for discussion as: "LIBRARIANSHIP UNDER THREE HEADS:"

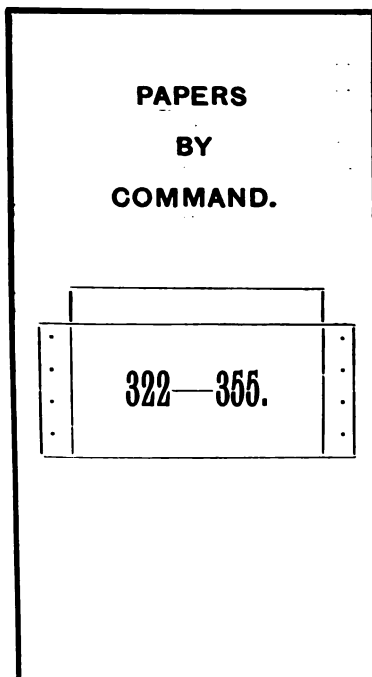
1. Financial.
2. Administrative.
3. Literary.

He made a strong plea for the cultivation of all three qualities in due proportions, and deprecated all literary efforts on unprofessional subjects which were carried on to the hurt of proper administration. He spoke with much pride of a new Apophthegm which he had invented, and which he thought should be written in letters of fire all round the librarian's office:—

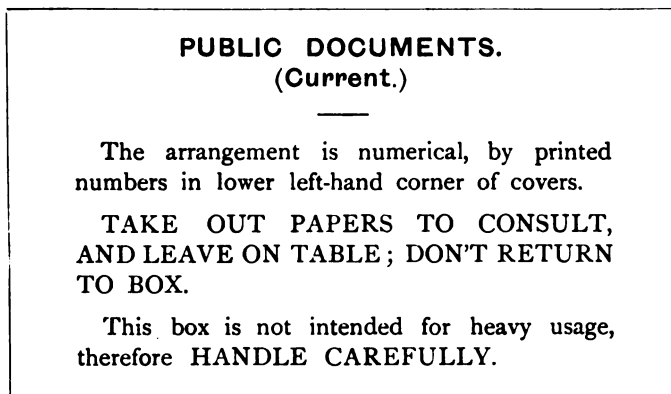
**THE LIBRARIAN WHO WRITES IS LOST!**

The general discussion which followed was largely devoted to the financial abilities which ought to be in possession of every chief librarian, to enable him, or her, to properly adjust expenditure, so as to maintain the best possible supply of books. On this head, the "Devil on Two Sticks" pointed out that, the records of several Guarantee Societies could show complete evidence of the presence of financial ability of a certain kind, among a select class of chief librarians. He stated that he mentioned the fact for information, not as a plea for imitation. "Frankenstein" supported the argument in favour of the administrative over the literary side of the requisite qualifications, and said that a librarian who could charge a book correctly, was of more service to the public than one who was merely a specialist in geology or electricity. "Don Quixote" spoke strongly in support of the cultivation of the literary and bibliographical side of the librarian, and stated that the undivided devotion of librarians to finance and administration produced clerks and storekeepers, but not men of culture capable of assisting the many-headed Public with their endless and varied needs. He pointed out that some of the very best practical librarians, were not only many-sided men of literary distinction, but WRITERS on subjects apart from librarianship. He mentioned Edward Edwards, Justin Winsor, Petzholdt, Richard Garnett, Panizzi, F. B. Perkins, E. W. B. Nicholson, and many others, as examples of librarians who combined the practical with the literary in admirable proportions. Furthermore, he stated that he could not name a single successful librarian of any mark who was not also something more than a mere practical man of affairs. As a rule, the librarian who cultivated his administrative side only, remained a clerk and nothing else, and his work remained unrecognised, unimportant, and futile. Finally, it was generally agreed that the best librarian was one who combined wide knowledge and love of books, with a grasp of business and practical methods, and who was not too proud or mighty to cheerfully assist an errand-boy to find a good recipe for boot-blackening





Inside the front lid of each box is this label :—



*Commons Reports* are numbered from 1, 2, 3, &c., without any other mark.

*Commons Bills* have the word "Bill" preceding the number, thus, "Bill 150."

## THE EVOLUTION OF LIBRARY FITTINGS.

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**Clark, J. W.** The Care of Books: the Development of Libraries and their Fittings, to the end of the Eighteenth Century. 18 + 330 pp. // Q. 1901. Cambridge University Press, 18s. net.

IT is surprising that in these days of universal research the subject of library Fittings should have remained to all intents and purposes a virgin one. It is neither an unimportant nor an uninteresting subject; to the librarian it is one naturally of peculiar interest. Yet, if we except slight and largely incidental treatment of ancient and monastic libraries and accounts of present day fittings—and the latter mostly of the trade catalogue order—there has been almost nothing written on the subject. It is therefore a matter of congratulation that so capable a writer and scholar as Mr. John Willis Clark should have seen proper to devote much time and learning to the investigation of this subject. In his handsomely produced and profusely illustrated volume entitled "The Care of Books," in which the evolution of library fittings is traced from the classic period to the end of the eighteenth century, Mr. Clark has made one of the most valuable contributions to library economy that has been issued for many a day, and has earned the gratitude of all librarians. Mr. Clark has already treated the subject in his valuable essay on "The Library" in "The Architectural History of the University and Colleges of Cambridge," and in his Rede and Sandars lectures on the monastic and Greek and Roman libraries respectively, and these with much fresh material he has embodied in this monograph of over 350 quarto pages. Mr. Clark's descriptions of the mechanical appliances used in the libraries of olden time, such as, for example, the methods of chaining books and the details of the chains and their fastenings, are wonderfully clear, supplemented as they are by photographs and drawings, even to the most non-mechanical reader. The many plans and elevations given are enhanced in value by being drawn to and accompanied by the scale, and altogether we have nothing but praise for this book. At least, if we have a grumble, it is that Mr. Clark has not been so full on the "wall system"—which brings us of course to our own fittings of to-day, and which is therefore not merely of antiquarian value—as he is on the "press" and "lectern" systems. We should therefore be glad to see an expansion of chapter viii. in a new edition.

The Assyrian brick books were arranged on shelves made of slate. Dr. Wallis Budge found them *in situ* in a chamber excavated at Derr. It is curious to learn that there was in all probability a class-catalogue, as well as a general catalogue of Assur-bani-pal's library.

Ancient Rome is said to have had no less than twenty-six Public Libraries. The parchment or papyrus rolls were stored in pigeon-holes raised against the walls, with the ticketed ends facing the spectator.

As a single work would run into several rolls the pigeon-holes would probably vary in size if each hole contained only a single work. There are no indications of "adjustable" shelving in those days, but it does not strike us as very improbable that the Romans recognised certain sizes, e.g., a five-roll, a ten-roll book, and so on, and spaced their pigeon-holes accordingly. A paperhanger's shop gives the idea of the general appearance of one of these ancient libraries. They had a kind of reading-desk on which a roll could be supported during perusal, of which Mr. Clark gives an illustration.

Besides this library shelving the Romans used presses, both for the accommodation of rolls and *codices*, the latter being in the form of the modern book. The press was either a standing article of furniture or was let into the wall. In the present Vatican library, a magnificent apartment with presses built round the square pillars and against the walls, commenced in 1587, "the main features of a Roman library are before us." The Vatican presses are 7 ft. high, and the doors are double, the inner doors being wire-grilled.

The "press" method of storage continued into Christian times, and the early monastic library, when books became few and scarce, as contrasted with their comparative plentifulness in the classic period, was contained in a recess in the cloister wall, lined inside with wood to prevent damp, and shelved. As the monastic libraries grew separate chambers were provided.

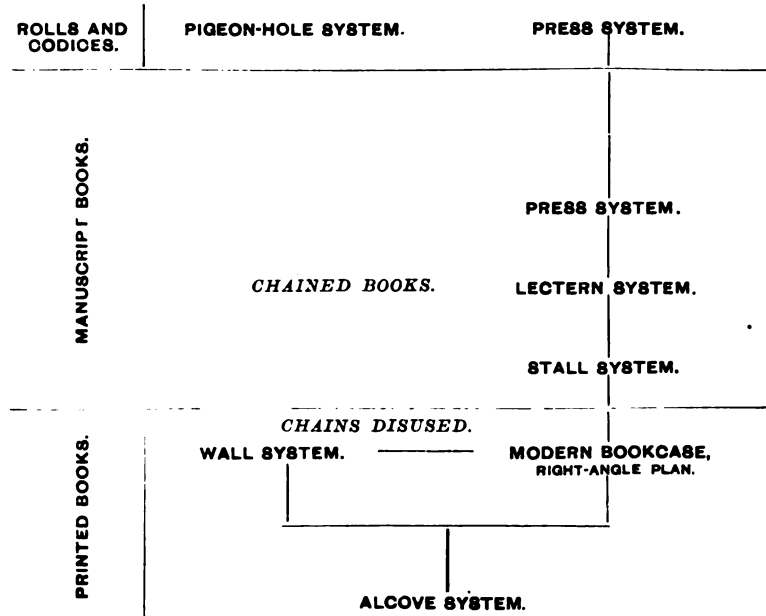
Next was introduced what Mr. Clark terms the "lectern" system. In this arrangement the books were laid on their sides on double-face sloping desks, and fastened by chains to a metal bar running along the top of the desk. Between the desks were benches for readers. In the library of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, are some examples of desks in which the books are placed on a shelf below, with the bar for the chains running under the slope. The curious fittings of the old library of the University of Leyden, as shown in the familiar print by Jan Cornelis Woudanus, are an instance of a shelf above the desk-slope. The books are shelved with the round away from the spectator, and the chains hang beneath through a slot in the desk.

The Leyden departure is a transition between the "lectern" and its development, the "stall" system. In the "stall" arrangement we have practically the modern bookcase (though containing only two shelves) with a slope projecting from it at a distance from the base convenient for the seated reader.

The first instance of the bookcase proper, as we know it, occurs at St. John's College, Cambridge, 1623-28. The room of the library is long and narrow, the orthodox design of the older libraries, with cases at right angles to the side walls between each of the twenty lofty windows, and lower cases with reading slopes on top intervening. The "wall" system, *i.e.*, the fixing of bookshelves against a wall instead of at right angles to it, was introduced in Spain in 1563-84 in the library of the Escorial. The earliest known instance of the adoption of this method in England occurs at the Bodleian, about half-a-century afterwards. The combination of the "stall" and "wall" systems,

which we may term the "alcove" system, appears to have first occurred to that great architectural genius, Sir Christopher Wren, who carried it out in the splendid library apartment of Trinity College, Cambridge, begun 1675-6, in which the special requirements of a library are no less considered and satisfactorily met than the demands of art. It is only the modern architect who usually fails lamentably in the first, and does not always attain the second. There is a library appliance in this library, designed also by Wren, a four-sided revolving reading desk, which seems as if it would be worth reviving. Unfortunately, Mr. Clark does not give scale drawings of these splendid cases and other furniture. Two features strike us especially about all these seventeenth and eighteenth century bookcases—their massiveness, and the absence of the "ledge" to allow for deeper shelves in the lower portion of the press. The shelves differ in height, but the depth throughout is the same.

We have drawn up the following diagram to show the evolution of library fittings as here hastily sketched, and fully told in Mr. Clark's fascinating work:—



## ORDNANCE MAPS: A SELECT LIST.

By ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Ry. Institute, Derby.*

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IN *The Library World* for October, 1898 (vol. i., p. 54) I suggested that Public Libraries should follow the example of the Midland Railway Institute in introducing a selection of Ordnance maps for tourist districts into the lending library. I described the way in which these maps should be mounted, arranged in series, and catalogued. Now I supplement the paper with a select list of maps for the districts where they would be most generally useful. Librarians will, of course, modify the list according to local needs, and a six-inch map of the town and environs will be added, as well as maps in duplicate of the neighbourhood for forty miles round.

The following is a selection of the most useful parts of the New Series One-inch Coloured Map, of which only the southern part of England and Wales has yet been published. This map has been criticised for occasional indistinctness in the drawing, but it certainly has excellences outweighing the imperfections. It is tinted, water being coloured blue, hills shaded in brown, roads sepia, and contour lines in red. The *hachures* make the hills stand out well, without the accuracy of contour lines being lost. Many districts are dealt with on combined sheets, some of these being simply twice the area of an ordinary division; or, if the additional part contains a seaboard, the blank space of sea is cut away. Every sheet is mounted and furnished with a cloth cover (single sheets 1s. each, combined sheets 1s. 6d. each). My practice is to put three or four maps into cloth pockets, arranging them into little tours. Unfortunately the maps are not always folded into the same size and shape, so that now and then they do not fit compactly.

The Wye—sheets 197, 198, 215, 233, 250—Hay, Hereford, Ross, Monmouth, and Chepstow.

The Severn—sheets 199, 216, 234—Worcester, Tewkesbury, and Gloucester.

Sheets 224 and 225—Colchester, Harwich, Walton-on-the-Naze.

Upper Thames—sheets 236, 252, 253—Oxford, Swindon, Abingdon.

Lower Thames—sheets 254, 255, 268, 269—Henley, Beaconsfield, Reading, and Windsor.

Sheets 256, 290—North and South London.

„ 258 and 272, 271, 273 and 289—Chatham, Shoeburyness, Dartford, Canterbury.

„ 264 and 280, 265, 279 and 295, 280 and 296—Bristol, Bath, Bridgewater, Glastonbury.

Parts of sheets 273, 274, 289, 290, 305 and 306, 289, 305 and 321—East Kent, Folkestone and Ashford.



- Sheets 240, 257—Epping and Romford.  
 „ 248, 261 and 262, 263 and 279—Pontypridd, Severn estuary, Cardiff, Weston-super-Mare.  
 „ 276 and 292, 277 and 293, 278 and 294—Bideford, Ilfracombe, Minehead, Exmoor.  
 Parts of sheets 298, 297, 313 and 314; sheets 281 and 282—Salisbury Plain, Salisbury, Shaftesbury, Bradford, Devizes.  
 Sheets 303, 304 and 320, 318 and 333, 319 and 334—Tunbridge Wells, Hastings, Brighton and Worthing, Eastbourne and Lewes.  
 „ 307 and 308, 322 and 336, 323—Bude, Boscastle.  
 „ 317 and 332, 331 and 345—Chichester and Bognor, Portsmouth, Spithead, Ventnor.  
 „ 324 and 338, 337—Dartmoor and Tavistock.  
 „ 325 and 339, 350 and 356—Exeter, Torquay.  
 „ 326 and 340, 327 and 341, 328 and 342—Sidmouth, Bridport, Weymouth.  
 „ 329 and 343, 330 and 344, 315—Bournemouth, the Solent, New Forest, Southampton.  
 „ 335 and 346, 351 and 358, 352 and 359—Newquay, Penzance, Land's End, Lizard, Falmouth.  
 „ 347 and 353, 348, 349 and 355—Bodmin and St. Austell, Plymouth, Southern Dartmoor, Ivybridge.

To complete the selection of maps for England and Wales, the uncoloured series, with contour lines and hills unshaded, can be used. It is known as New Series One-inch Ordnance Map, and the divisions are of course identical with those of the same map coloured (price 1s. each unmounted).

- \*Lake District, Northern half—sheets 23, 24, 29 and 30.  
 \* Do., Southern half—sheets 38, 39, 48 and 49.  
 \*Yorkshire, West Riding—sheets 50, 51, 60 and 61.  
 \* Do., North Riding—sheets 30, 31, 40 and 41.  
 \* Do., East Riding, Scarborough, &c.—sheets 44, 54 and 64.  
 Peak District of Derbyshire—sheets 99, \*100, \*111, 112, 124 and 125.  
 Sherwood Forest and Dukeries—sheets \*101, 113, 126.  
 Sheets 183, \*184, \*200, \*201—Forest of Arden, Warwick, Stratford-on-Avon, &c.  
 Charnwood Forest—sheet 155.  
 North Wales—sheets 135, 136, 149—Harlech, Dolgelly, Cader Idris, Bala, Llanrhaiadr, Barmouth.  
 Snowdonia—sheets 106 and 119.  
 Aberystwith, &c.—sheets 163 and 178.  
 \*Isle of Man, consolidated sheet. (Price 2s. 6d.)

Small index maps are published in the "Summary of Publications" issued by the Ordnance Survey. One about four times as big can be

\* These sheets may also be had with the hills shaded, a form which has many advantages over the contour lines.

do at present. Besides this, there is the unwisdom of buying a large number of copies of works which soon become obsolete and an incumbrance on the shelves.

6. That at many libraries elsewhere, the time for *popular* works of fiction is limited to seven days.

7. That the best method is to leave this matter to the librarian to deal with as considerately as possible when affecting borrowers whose time is limited, and extend the time in all cases where it would not inflict an absolute injustice upon other borrowers.

Resolved :—That the recommendation of the Chief Librarian in the final clause of his report be adopted.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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The "Historical Sketch, 1824-1900," of the **Leeds** Institute of Science, Art, and Literature, is an interesting, well-illustrated *résumé* of the rapid progress in educational matters in that city during the last three-quarters of a century. In 1842 the institute had 750 members; in 1900 they numbered 2,007. Besides the members there were 2,661 individual students, thus making the total for last year 4,668. The library contains about 26,000 volumes, and the open access system adopted some time ago "has been a great boon to the members." No historical information is given regarding the library, and we conclude that its past achievements were not deemed of sufficient importance to merit a summary.

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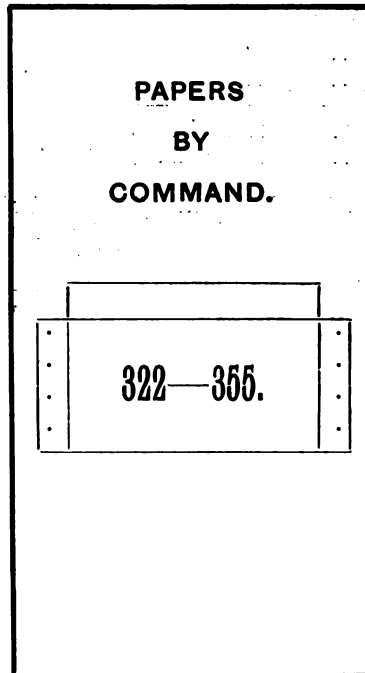
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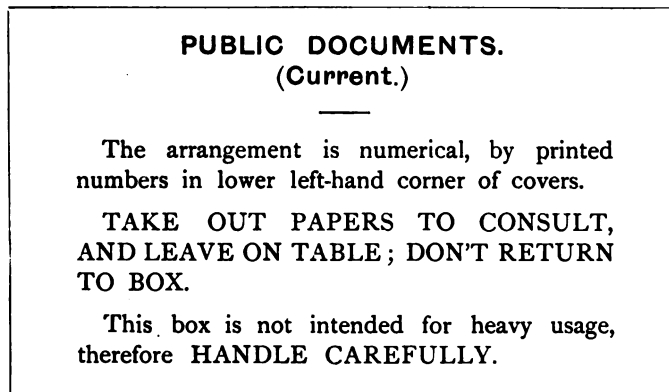
At **West Bromwich** the total stock of the lending library is 11,150 volumes. The issues during 1900-01 were 49,686 volumes, a daily average of 209; which is an increase of 33 per day over the preceding year. In the reference library things are just as rosy. The stock now numbers 14,700 volumes, and the total issue was 1,539 as against 496 in 1899-00, an increase of 1,043, this in spite of the fact that no record is made of the hundreds of consultations of books on the open shelves.

From the 1900-01 Report of the **Leyton** Public Libraries we learn that the stock is now 16,947 volumes, of which 3,795 are in the reference department, and that the total issues for the year amounted to 154,211 volumes in the lending department, and 9,394 in the reference—in the former, an increase over last year of 11,018 volumes, and of 3,606 in the latter. We regret to learn that the Book Delivery Stations "have not proved the success that was anticipated, and scarcely justify the expenditure they incur," though, in view of the fact that they are placed in "unsuitable" positions, it is not to be wondered at; the wonder is that they *were* so placed. The first principle to be considered when planting Delivery Stations is just this one of position, for on it mainly rests the success of the venture.

The September number of *The Free Library*, the monthly magazine of **Middlesbrough** Public Library, contains the usual annotated list of the month's additions, and an "Author Index to Poetry and Prose Fiction, August 1899-July, 1901"—which is the period covered by the first volume. We are sorry that this index was so restricted, for there is nothing better than a good author index to impress readers with the real value of such magazines as this. But the sometimes necessary evil of brevity in indexing is mitigated in this particular instance by the very complete subject index which, with a portrait of the chairman of the Library Committee and the title-page for volume i., makes up the October number.



Inside the front lid of each box is this label:—



*Commons Reports* are numbered from 1, 2, 3, &c., without any other mark.

*Commons Bills* have the word "Bill" preceding the number, thus, "Bill 150."

*Papers by Command* have the letters "Cd." preceding the number. Included in the "Command" papers are the *Diplomatic and Consular Reports—Annual*, the *D. and C. R.—Miscellaneous*; and the *Colonial Reports—Annual*, and the *C. R.—Miscellaneous*. All these Reports are quarto size, and, with the exception of the last, are so numbered as to run on without any breaks, unlike the other papers where folio and quarto documents come cheek by jowl. For these therefore it is best to have smaller boxes, which should, however, be shelved along with the other "Papers by Command," so as to keep the series intact. The system of numbering adopted in the case of the Reports mentioned is best shown by an example. The *D. and C. R.—Annual* for 1899 are numbered "Cd. 429." This is the general number for the series. Separate Reports are then numbered "Cd. 429," "Cd. 429—1," "Cd. 429—2," &c. The *D. and C. R.—Miscellaneous* and *C. R.—Annual* are numbered respectively "Cd. 430," and "Cd. 431," with individual Reports after the first distinguished by a dash and running number, as in the *D. and C. R.—Annual*. As said, the *C. R.—Miscellaneous* for some mysterious reason do not receive one general number, but come anywhere among the other "Command" papers, and must consequently be filed in the folio boxes.

The "Monthly List of Parliamentary Publications" issued by H.M. Stationery Office, with the cumulative "Quarterly List" and its valuable subject index, is a ready-made catalogue and key to the contents of the boxes.



## TWO REPORTS ON OPEN ACCESS.

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### A STUDY IN TESTIMONY.

(Concluded from p. 121.)

Mr. COTGREAVE, West Ham :

The librarian has had experience with "Open Access" at Manchester Royal Exchange Library and in Guernsey, but is not in favour of the system. He states that it requires much more space, more books are lost; they are often carelessly or wilfully misplaced, which is an injustice to the other readers requiring such books, and which leads to confusion and loss of time by the assistants in re-arranging them. Besides this, the assistants are much interrupted in their work by various borrowers who will persist in conversing with them. . . . If the "Indicator" system be worked by an equally intelligent and courteous staff, it is more convenient to borrowers than the "Open Access" system, and without its disadvantages. . . .

Everyone is so well satisfied with the working of the "Indicator" system at this library that there has never been

The Forty-ninth Report of the **Boston** Public Library is, as might be expected of a report from what is the finest municipal library in the world, a pamphlet of great interest. The history of the library for the past year is one of constant growth and expansion—of its agencies for the delivery of books, of the numbers of its books and manuscripts, and of their use. It now contains 87 agencies, an increase of 15 over the number existing on January 31st, 1900. Notwithstanding this, application for further branches are receiving the consideration of the trustees, and many of them, “if not all,” are worthy of it. Roughly, 50 per cent. of the income goes in salaries, 9 per cent. in books and photographs, about 3 per cent. in periodicals and newspapers. The following is instructive:—

For structural reasons no large extension of open shelves has been possible this year, but in several branches bookcases have been built outside the enclosures, so that more books might be accessible to the public. In six of the ten branches all, or nearly all, of the shelves are open. There can be no doubt that the public is benefited by handling the books, and it appears that the library administration has gone on at least as smoothly as before. The wear of the books is greater, but the loss is not alarming, for the total number of volumes missing is only eight more than last year in these six branches. The chief loss has been, as usual, from the juvenile collections, and not from the main body of shelves recently thrown open.

And this :

The branches and stations are advertised from time to time in various ways—by placards and circulars, by articles in the newspapers, metropolitan and suburban, and by personal effort, especially at the schools. This year, in addition to the usual means, a general card, suggested by the chairman of the sub-committee on branches of the examining committee, was prepared, and with his co-operation placed in the waiting-rooms and car-houses of the Elevated Railway, the Western Union Telegraph offices, the engine-houses, the police stations, the public schools, and many other places. This card shows the location of all the branches and stations of the library, and by underlining the name of a branch it becomes an advertisement of that one in particular. In this connection, articles upon the extent of the branch system were published in various newspapers.

We have also received the following:—*Chorley Library Journal* (June); *Our New Books*, from Kingston-upon-Thames (June, September); *Nottingham Library Bulletin* (numbers from July to October); the *Perth Library and Museum Record* (July); and Reports from Blackburn, Acton, and Portsmouth; and the Bootle Prospectus of Free Lectures and Museum Addresses.

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a preceding number, was in the nature of a compromise ; Open Access was adopted for the Non-Fiction and the Indicator for Fiction, an arrangement already in operation at Southport. It cannot fail to be observed that many of the statements—we do not refer to arguments, but what are or ought to be matters of fact—made by the librarians concerned do not “hang together.” The discriminating reader will therefore give due importance to the fact that the decision of the Deputation was reached, not by mere interviews with the librarians, but by what they themselves *saw*. This observation applies to another and more recent Report by a Deputation sent by the Halifax Libraries Committee to the principal Open Access libraries, the special interest of which lies in the fact that the Deputation give rather their own impressions than the views of the librarians, who may be considered as more or less interested parties. We have had perhaps enough of librarians' opinions on this much vexed topic. We believe, therefore, that our readers, in whatever direction their sympathies incline, will be glad to have the testimony of committee-men whom we have no reason to suppose entered on their investigation with any particular bias. The Report, which will form a useful pendant to that of Brighton, is as follows :—

We visited Clerkenwell, Croydon, and Hornsey Libraries, on June 27th and 28th, with a desire to see the “Open Access” system in operation. We were kindly received by Mr. Brown, Chief Librarian of Clerkenwell. This library is in the centre of a working-class population, and though the population has decreased 4,000 during the last decade, yet the circulation has been kept up. This result was ascribed to the “Open Access” system. The library was not built for the “Open Access” system, but was adapted to it, at a cost of £50 for every 10,000 volumes. We found the librarian quite enthusiastic in his advocacy of the “Open Access” plan, and so far as we could see, it worked with the greatest ease and without friction ; the cost of administration being about the same as under the “Indicator” system in this place, both having been tried. The loss in books being about the same. The working of “Open Access” is a matter of detail, as every place that we visited has a slightly different method. We then visited Croydon, where the “Open Access” plan is in full and active operation. The population of Croydon is altogether different from that of Clerkenwell, being very largely of a residential character, and as we were there in the afternoon, the borrowers were of quite a superior class. We carefully examined the procedure, and saw that everything went on with the greatest ease and regularity. We have since received from the librarian a minute detailed account of their method. Out of a daily circulation of 1,167, their loss had only been 15 volumes per annum, or a money value of £3. As the “Open Access” system has been in operation five years, it has been fully tested and thoroughly approved by borrowers. In order to make an

"Open Access" library, a trained librarian would be necessary to arrange it in the first place, and a large catalogue would not be required; but small sectional catalogues are best. Under the "Open Access" system, there is a greater demand for books, for readers read more, and borrowers are educated to select books. The 1d. rate at Croydon produces £3,250. The cost of administration is the same under both systems. Mr. Whitaker had some conversation with gentlemen who had had some experience of both plans, both at Hornsey and Croydon, and in all cases they were in favour of the "Open Access." This library is in the Town Hall, and was built for "Open Access." Two of their branches have been adapted. We then went to Hornsey as we were told we could see "Open Access," under the best conditions. We found the population similar to Croydon, that is, superior class. The lending library contains 14,200 volumes, with a daily average of 788, and was built for the "Open Access" system. The shelves were so arranged that the top could easily be reached, this was so at Croydon, but not so at Clerkenwell. Everything proceeded with the greatest ease, there was no crushing, the borrowers selected their books with the greatest ease. The 1d. rate at Hornsey produced £2,000. On the 12th and 13th August we also visited Huddersfield and Brighouse, as we were very anxious to see the "Open Access" under conditions similar to our own. The Huddersfield library contains 11,000 volumes, and their daily average is 580, the whole library being turned over at least once a month. The trades of the district are similar to our own. It is very rarely that anyone comes dirty. The greatest order and expedition prevailed, and the "Open Access" system was a decided success. The loss of books had been only nine this year, and stock-taking was just completed. At Brighouse we found a small library containing 4,500 volumes, with a daily issue of 150. The loss had not been more than two this year. The librarian having had experience of both methods was very decided in his opinion in favour of "Open Access." The method of receiving and distributing the books being of the simplest kind, every library had slightly different methods, but all were quite agreed in principle. If the object of a free library is to distribute books in the simplest and most effective manner, and not be a place for collecting and storing books, then there is no doubt that "Open Access" is the best system. When we come to consider the further important question of its application to the Halifax libraries, then we are met with the fact that a considerable sum would be required to adapt them. The shelves would have to be lowered and lengthened, the whole internal arrangements would have to be altered. And to do the thing properly a re-classification of the whole library would have to be made, and to do this a trained librarian would be necessary, or, if not, the work could

only be done in sections, and would take a very long time to do. In conclusion, we desire to say that we were received with the greatest kindness and courtesy by all the librarians, and offers of assistance were made by all if we decided to adopt the "Open Access" system.

One thing these Reports conclusively prove, and that is that committees opening new libraries cannot do wrong, and will probably find it worth their while to enquire at first hand into the working of the system known as Safeguarded Open Access. Its merits may have been exaggerated by its adherents, as its demerits have certainly been exaggerated by its opponents. But a personal investigation costs little, and is worth a ton-load of statements and arguments *pro* and *con*. To hear *and* see—that is the practical and business-like thing to do. And that is what Brighton and Halifax did.



## EXTENSION OF TIME FOR READING WORKS OF FICTION FROM 7 TO 14 DAYS.

*Report of the Borough Librarian of WEST HAM to the Library Committee.*

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**A**FTER careful notice and investigation of the issues of works of fiction in view of extending the time of loan, I submit the following results of my enquiries:—

1. That complaints of the present conditions are very few, and are generally made by persons having the most leisure time.
2. That although the readers know that with all books, except those in great demand, they can extend the time if applied for at the time of loan, or later on by renewal, very few such applications are made, and these are generally for books for which many readers are waiting.
3. That even under the present seven day limit many persons fail entirely to obtain the books they require, and that in some cases, as many as twenty or more bespoke postcards are in hand for popular works. At this present time there are thirty cards waiting for the "Master Christian," some of which have been here since May, although we have eight copies of the work. If the time of loan is extended this inconvenience to the great majority of readers will be greatly increased.
4. That in many cases the extension of time would be abused by a few, to the detriment of the library, and inconvenience of a large number of borrowers.
5. If the time is increased more copies of books in demand should be purchased, which we can scarcely afford to

do at present. Besides this, there is the unwisdom of buying a large number of copies of works which soon become obsolete and an incumbrance on the shelves.

6. That at many libraries elsewhere, the time for *popular* works of fiction is limited to seven days.

7. That the best method is to leave this matter to the librarian to deal with as considerately as possible when affecting borrowers whose time is limited, and extend the time in all cases where it would not inflict an absolute injustice upon other borrowers.

Resolved :—That the recommendation of the Chief Librarian in the final clause of his report be adopted.



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"Wanted, a thousand readers to subscribe to the **Bootle Free Library, Museum, and Technical School Journal.**" Thus runs the semi-comic, semi-pathetic legend on the end cover of the September number. The contents include two articles—or reviews—by the librarian, entitled "Jenny Lind and Liverpool," and "'Bootle Coffee House' and Its Associations." The recent additions cover seven pages, and "Notes on Books, New and Old," two-and-a-half. These latter would be infinitely more interesting and serviceable were they attached to the catalogue entries of the books referred to.

At **West Bromwich** the total stock of the lending library is 11,150 volumes. The issues during 1900-01 were 49,686 volumes, a daily average of 209; which is an increase of 33 per day over the preceding year. In the reference library things are just as rosy. The stock now numbers 14,700 volumes, and the total issue was 1,539 as against 496 in 1899-00, an increase of 1,043, this in spite of the fact that no record is made of the hundreds of consultations of books on the open shelves.

From the 1900-01 Report of the **Leyton** Public Libraries we learn that the stock is now 16,947 volumes, of which 3,795 are in the reference department, and that the total issues for the year amounted to 154,211 volumes in the lending department, and 9,394 in the reference—in the former, an increase over last year of 11,018 volumes, and of 3,606 in the latter. We regret to learn that the Book Delivery Stations "have not proved the success that was anticipated, and scarcely justify the expenditure they incur," though, in view of the fact that they are placed in "unsuitable" positions, it is not to be wondered at; the wonder is that they *were* so placed. The first principle to be considered when planting Delivery Stations is just this one of position, for on it mainly rests the success of the venture.

The September number of *The Free Library*, the monthly magazine of **Middlesbrough** Public Library, contains the usual annotated list of the month's additions, and an "Author Index to Poetry and Prose Fiction, August 1899-July, 1901"—which is the period covered by the first volume. We are sorry that this index was so restricted, for there is nothing better than a good author index to impress readers with the real value of such magazines as this. But the sometimes necessary evil of brevity in indexing is mitigated in this particular instance by the very complete subject index which, with a portrait of the chairman of the Library Committee and the title-page for volume i., makes up the October number.

The Forty-ninth Report of the **Boston** Public Library is, as might be expected of a report from what is the finest municipal library in the world, a pamphlet of great interest. The history of the library for the past year is one of constant growth and expansion—of its agencies for the delivery of books, of the numbers of its books and manuscripts, and of their use. It now contains 87 agencies, an increase of 15 over the number existing on January 31st, 1900. Notwithstanding this, application for further branches are receiving the consideration of the trustees, and many of them, "if not all," are worthy of it. Roughly, 50 per cent. of the income goes in salaries, 9 per cent. in books and photographs, about 3 per cent. in periodicals and newspapers. The following is instructive:—

For structural reasons no large extension of open shelves has been possible this year, but in several branches bookcases have been built outside the enclosures, so that more books might be accessible to the public. In six of the ten branches all, or nearly all, of the shelves are open. There can be no doubt that the public is benefited by handling the books, and it appears that the library administration has gone on at least as smoothly as before. The wear of the books is greater, but the loss is not alarming, for the total number of volumes missing is only eight more than last year in these six branches. The chief loss has been, as usual, from the juvenile collections, and not from the main body of shelves recently thrown open.

And this:

The branches and stations are advertised from time to time in various ways—by placards and circulars, by articles in the newspapers, metropolitan and suburban, and by personal effort, especially at the schools. This year, in addition to the usual means, a general card, suggested by the chairman of the sub-committee on branches of the examining committee, was prepared, and with his co-operation placed in the waiting-rooms and car-houses of the Elevated Railway, the Western Union Telegraph offices, the engine-houses, the police stations, the public schools, and many other places. This card shows the location of all the branches and stations of the library, and by underlining the name of a branch it becomes an advertisement of that one in particular. In this connection, articles upon the extent of the branch system were published in various newspapers.

We have also received the following:—*Chorley Library Journal* (June); *Our New Books*, from Kingston-upon-Thames (June, September); *Nottingham Library Bulletin* (numbers from July to October); the *Perth Library and Museum Record* (July); and Reports from Blackburn, Acton, and Portsmouth; and the Bootle Prospectus of Free Lectures and Museum Addresses.

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**Library of Congress. Division of Bibliography. Griffin, A.P.C.** (*Ed.*) Union List of Periodicals, Transactions and Allied Publications Currently Received in the Principal Libraries of Columbia. 6 pp. + 315 leaves. **Division of Manuscripts. Friedenwald, Herbert** (*Ed.*) Calendar of Washington Manuscripts in the Library of Congress. 315 pp. **Periodical Division. Slauson, A. B.** (*Ed.*) Check List of American Newspapers in the Library of Congress. 10 pp. + 292 leaves. Q. 1901. Washington: Government Printing Office.

All these publications are interesting examples of the work of the Library of Congress. The List of Periodicals is a union list of the principal government libraries, the Library of Congress, War Department, Department of Agriculture, and so on—sixteen in all. It is a preliminary list, being intended “to provide a basis for a complete and correct list,” and with this end in view is printed on the *recto* only, the *verso* being left blank for additions and a handsome margin of 3 in. being provided for corrections. Periodicals are entered under first word of title, societies under title, with cross-reference from place, society publications under society, with cross-reference from name of publication, except proceedings and transactions. Instead of the usual dash, *à la* Cutter, after the place, to distinguish the official publications of a town or district from other publications, the Library of Congress indents the former under the name of the place, employing a dash in the ordinary way to indicate repetition of a heading. Thus:—

Boston.  
     Chamber of commerce.  
     Fish bureau.  
     Museum of fine arts.  
     Public Library.  
         [*And so on.*]  
 Boston academy.  
 Boston budget.  
 Boston cooking school magazine.  
         [*And so on.*]

This is neat and clear.

The “Check List of American Newspapers” is issued in the same form as the “List of Periodicals,” text on the *recto* only and wide margins. The arrangement is by States and cities, but under each heading the sub-arrangement is alphabetical—not by first word of title, but by “most closely descriptive word,” which is picked out in small capitals. The following is an example:—

**Huntsville.**  
     Huntsville ADVOCATE.  
     The DEMOCRAT.  
     Huntsville GAZETTE.  
     Alabama REPUBLICAN.

There is an index of titles.

More interesting than either of the above is of course the "Calendar of Washington Manuscripts." It is in two parts, papers from and to Washington. The arrangement is chronological, and the contents of the MSS. are summarised. It is admirably done, and the calendar may well serve as a model to librarians who have the "luck" to have this sort of work to do. And many libraries will have some MSS. in their local collections which should be calendared. An index of names concludes the work.

**Hornsey Public Libraries. Central Library.** Catalogue of the Books in the Reference Department. Compiled by Thos. Johnston, Chief Librarian and Secretary. 134 + 13 pp. 1901. 3d.

We have to congratulate the Hornsey Library Authority on the get-up of this little list. In size it is handy, being  $7\frac{1}{4}$  in.  $\times$   $4\frac{1}{2}$ , well printed on fairly good paper: for the sum of threepence, indeed, it could not well be better.

It is "in two parts—a Classified List and an Author List. The system of classification used is the Adjustable, which shows at a glance all the works in the library upon any particular subject. The fullest information has been given under the classified division, the contents of works being set out, and *annotated where considered necessary*; the entry under the author being reduced to the smallest dimensions consistent with clearness." The words italicised by us really mean this: annotations have been made when considered *absolutely indispensable* by the compiler, in other cases the "estimates demon" has forced him to "give them the chuck," to use an expressive vulgarism. The annotations are, in fact, conspicuous by their scarcity. There is room for many more: the very full author list—all imprint information is given—is quite unnecessary.

There are some serious errors in the catalogue. This is a form of author entry:—

HUNTENDUNENSIS, HENRICI ARCHIDIACONI. Historia Anglorum. *Henrici* and *Archidiaconi* are the genitive forms of *Henricus* and *Archidiaconus*. Why on earth the arranging word should be *Huntingdon* instead of *Henry* we cannot tell. Our astonishment is increased when we find that the same work is arranged by the heading "Henry, Archdeacon of Huntingdon" in the author list. Again we get in the class list other genitives, "Bacon, Rogeri," and "Geraldus Cambrensis." In the author list the former becomes "Bacon, Roger"; the latter is quick-changed into "Cambrensis, Geraldus" (!), with no reference from *Geraldus*, but with one from "Barri, Geraldus du." We get these various forms of author entry:—

Geraldus (?) Cambrensis (Gerald (?) de Barri).

Cambrensis, Geraldus (?).

Barri, Geraldus du (?). *See* Cambrensis, Geraldus (?).

And several analytics: "*In* Cambrensis's Works." In the work catalogued the form of the name is "Giraldus de Barri." Many other

instances of confusion as to the authorship, or entry word, are to be found. One occurs in connection with "Liber Monasterii de Hyda": in the class list, where the author's name is the entry-word, it is arranged under "Liber," in the author list under "Edwards, Edward," the editor; there is no entry of Hyde. The following are various entries of the same book:—

E. Kainediatheke. [Greek New Testament.] Griesbach's Text; with the various readings of Mill and Scholz; also a Greek-English Lexicon to the New Testament. By J. H. Bass. 1892. E86.

Griesbach, J. J. Text of Greek New Testament. 1892. E86.

Bass, J. H. Greek-English Lexicon to the New Testament. E86.

These defects mar what is otherwise a good catalogue; it is precisely because the catalogue is good that we have been so long engaged in the ungracious task of fault-finding. In a future edition many things undoubtedly due to haste in compilation will be eliminated. And it is really necessary that the Latin genitives—of which there are a good many—and other mistakes in the author entry *should* be eliminated.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

It does not seem to be generally known that under the provisions of the **Public Libraries Act, 1901**, it is made compulsory on library authorities to notify the Local Government Board that the Acts *have been* adopted in the district. For years past it has been a constant cause of complaint that no reliable official list of adoptions of the Public Libraries Act existed, and it is to collect material for such a list that the clause has been inserted in the 1901 Act. As a matter of fact, the only list of Public Libraries in Britain which is of any value is the very full one contained in Mr. Thomas Greenwood's "British Library Year Book." This is essentially a case in which private enterprise has got far ahead of official methods, and Mr. Greenwood's perseverance and success in this direction is all the more commendable, since it is well known that his efforts to collect this valuable information are inspired by his ardent interest in the library movement, a pursuit which has cost him many thousands of pounds. The Act above referred to is otherwise notable for the extraordinary discrepancy between its title and its contents. Though stated to be an Act protecting Public Libraries from actions for libel on account of books containing libellous matter being circulated, all mention of this interesting fact is carefully excised from the body of the Act. The whole course of library legislation has been marked by similar blundering. Perhaps the day will come when, by some supreme effort, a mistake will be made removing the rate limitation!

IN many of the recent works recording the social progress of the British Empire some notice is generally bestowed upon the **library movement**, as an evidence of national interest and progress in educational matters. These notices are, as a rule, confined to laudatory references to the late William Ewart, and a certain amount of patronage is accorded to the movement as a kind of grudging concession to its importance. It has been reserved for Mr. Edwin Hodder, in his recent work entitled "The Life of a Century, 1800 to 1900" (Newnes, 1901), to reduce this notice to a minimum which may fitly be described as irreducible. In this work of 780 pages of elaborately illustrated matter dealing with the social, material, artistic and literary progress of the British Empire during the nineteenth century, there is one clause of a short paragraph devoted to the library movement, which has been so influential upon thought and opinion during the last fifty years. It will not break the publisher to reproduce this pregnant clause in full, and it is therefore quoted here in all its naked slimness, as an example of marvellous condensation in marshalling the facts about an important phase of educational work—"and the craving for intellectual advancement has been satisfied by the institution of free libraries." Well, all we can say is that, if this intellectual craving has been satisfied, such an important factor in the educational progress was deserving of as much attention as some of the comparatively trifling and ephemeral matters deemed worthy of extended notice by Mr. Hodder. As regards the general merits of Mr. Hodder's book, we can only say it is useful for its pictorial representation of historic men and events, though it comes rather as a shock to light upon old illustrations from the works of Jules Verne served up as authentic pictures of historical occurrences!

AT the Marylebone County Court on November 5th his Honour Judge Stonor gave judgment for 6s. 10d. and 3s. costs, in an action brought by the Willesden Urban District Council and the Willesden Public Libraries Committee to recover the above amount from the guarantor, being the value of two books lost by the borrowers from the **Kilburn** Public Library.

THE committee of the **Lincoln** Public Library has decided to issue a series of reading lists of books on special subjects, the first of which is to deal with engineering, the staple industry of the city. The lists will be distributed gratis.

A LIBRARY of 600 volumes has been formed at the Wigan Institute, **Mortlake**, which will, it is hoped, form the nucleus of a Public Library in the near future. The subscription is a halfpenny a week.

THE new central library premises, at 12, Stanhope Gardens, **Bournemouth**, were opened by the Mayor on October 21st.

DR. CARNEGIE'S gift of £37,000 to **Dundee** provides for the establishment of a new central lending library and reading room and four branch libraries.

THE **Hobart** Public Library has an ingenious plan of ventilating its rooms. Each day, between 1 and 1.30 p.m., and 6 and 6.30 p.m., the

doors and windows are thrown open to the winds of heaven—we should say to the winds of Hobart.

COLONEL EVANS-LLOYD has lately presented a new free library building to **Bala** in memory of his mother. The opening ceremony was performed by Mr. A. Osmond Williams, M.P.

A BRANCH of the **Halifax** Public Libraries has been opened at Luddenden.

THE Astley-Cheetham Public Free Library, which has been presented to the borough of **Stalybridge** by Mr. J. F. Astley-Cheetham, was formally opened on October 16th by the wife of the donor.

**Adoptions** of the Public Libraries Act:—**Rutherglen, Kinning Park, Clackmannan, Lossiemouth.**

A PUBLIC hall and library has been opened at **Abergwynfi**, the prosperous mining town at the top of the Llynfi Valley, by Lady Jersey. Lord Jersey gave the site and £150, and has promised another £100.

SHERIFF SYM has just issued his decision in the action at the instance of Mr. J. Clark, collector of the Poor and School Rates, Perth, against the **Perth** Town Council, as trustees of the Sandeman Public Library, for £80 13s., being Poor and School Rates for six months prior to Whitsunday, 1899, and for the year from Whitsunday, 1899, to Whitsunday, 1900, assessed on the defenders. Recently the Sheriff heard parties' agents. He has now issued judgment, repelling the pleas of the defenders that the pursuer had no title to sue, and that the certificate granted by the Registrar of Friendly Societies in Scotland on May 30th (which the defenders pleaded was retroactive, and exempted them from the assessment) did not exempt the defenders from the Poor and School Rates assessed. He accordingly granted decree in favour of the pursuer for the sum sued for, with expenses.

ON October 30th the **Blackpool** Free Library came of age, and celebrated the attainment of its majority by reopening its library after extensive alterations and improvements. Sir A. K. Rollit, LL.D., M.P., performed the reopening ceremony. At the public meeting held in the afternoon, Councillor Lucas, B.A., the chairman of the Library Committee, alluding to the introduction of the safeguarded open access system, stated that it had given satisfaction to old and young alike, and had been most successful in its results. The librarian (Miss Lewtas) had informed him that after stock-taking up to the previous day they had not lost a single book. Sir Albert Rollit expressed his belief in the advantages of the system.

MRS. SEARE, of South Norwood, has given £100 to the **Southwark** Library Committee for the purchase of reference books for the Walworth Road Library.

A WELSH assistant, in the person of Mr. A. T. H. James, has been appointed by the Swansea Free Library Committee.

A PUBLIC Library has been opened at **Barry Port.**

ON Friday, November 15th, the first of the Public Libraries for **Woolwich** was opened by the Right Hon. Lord Avebury, F.R.S. The library, which will be the administrative centre of the system (a larger

library, containing the chief reference library, is to be erected in the High Street, and there are to be branches in North Woolwich, Eltham, and South Plumstead), adjoins the Town Hall. It has been built by Messrs. Thomas & Edge, of Woolwich, from plans by Messrs. Church, Quick & Whincop, also of Woolwich. The site has frontages of 50 ft., and is 90 ft. deep. The total cost of building was £9,800. The newspaper room, book store, hall, and counter, and magazine room are all on the ground floor; the reference library being above the magazine room and book store, and the librarian's rooms over the newspaper room. The exterior of the library cannot be described as particularly striking or beautiful; but the interior, with its well-balanced colour, its polished walnut woodwork, and happy arrangement, is both beautiful and exceptionally comfortable for the reader. The remarkable feature of the Woolwich Library, however, is the collection of 10,000 volumes purchased from the private library of Mr. W. E. Goulden, of Canterbury, for £1,000. Mr. Henry Phipps, of Pittsburg, U.S.A., has given £100 towards the cost of keeping the reading-room of the library open on Sundays.

ALTHOUGH most of them have been already notified in this column, the following list of **Carnegie** gifts in connection with Public Libraries since the donation of £2,000,000 to the Scottish Universities will be useful. We won't guarantee its absolute completeness, as we haven't yet been able to appoint our special Carnegie clerk:—

New York (roughly) ... ..	£1,040,000
Dundee ... ..	37,000
Winnipeg (Canada), roughly	20,000
Hamilton ... ..	15,000
Coatbridge ... ..	13,000
Motherwell ... ..	12,000
Kelso ... ..	9,000
Ilkestone ... ..	7,500
Rutherglen ... ..	7,500
Limerick ... ..	7,000
Dalkeith ... ..	5,000
Bo'ness ... ..	5,000
Massachusetts ... ..	4,000
Annan ... ..	3,000
Larbert ... ..	3,000
Castle Douglas ... ..	2,000
Thurso ... ..	2,000
Lossiemouth ... ..	1,500
Tueynon, Aberdare ... ..	1,500
Prestonpans ... ..	1,000
Inellan ... ..	100
Beaully ... ..	Public Hall and Library
Revere (Mass.), roughly	4,000
Clackmannan ... ..	1,200
Waterford ... ..	5,000
Kinning Park ... ..	5,000

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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## SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

THE Annual Meeting of the Society of Public Librarians was held at the Bishopsgate Institute, on Wednesday evening, November 13th. There was a good attendance of members. The officers elected for the ensuing year were:—Mr. C. Plant, Chairman; Mr. F. Chennell, Vice-Chairman; Mr. H. S. Newland, Hon. Treasurer; and Mr. C. W. F. Goss, Hon. Secretary.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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## ADVERTISING LIBRARY APPOINTMENTS.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

DEAR SIR,—For months past I have noticed in the columns of your journal reports of various library appointments made from time to time. It is and has been a mystery to me, as to where these vacant posts have been advertised. I am of course aware that *The Athenæum* was considered the medium through which these vacancies were made known to those interested in library work. As a large majority of appointments reported in your journal for several months back were never advertised in *The Athenæum*, I am led to believe that there must be another periodical, other than the local daily papers, in which these vacant posts are advertised.

Would it be troubling your valuable time too much to kindly inform me if such is the case, and if so, what is the name of that journal?

Yours faithfully,

September 14, 1901.

WM. E. OWEN.

[There is no rule in the matter. Many posts are advertised only in some provincial paper, and sometimes in *The Times* without appearing in *The Athenæum*. There is, however, a list of municipal, including library, appointments every week in *The Municipal Journal* copied from various papers.—ED.]

## "EVERY LIBRARIAN HIS OWN CRITIC."

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.

DEAR SIR,—May I suggest to the writer of the article on "Every Librarian his own Critic," in this month's *Library World*, the propriety of either quoting in full the title and author of any work he censures,

or of making his reference entirely general? He directs his objurgations against a work entitled, "Handbook to Prose Fiction." Now, I am not aware how many "Handbooks to Prose Fiction" have been published, but at all events they must be in the plural number, since I have myself produced a small manual under that title, which proves not to be the one alluded to. There may be others in existence, to any of which a reader may apply your reviewer's strictures, if he is unable to locate the quotations.

The article, as a whole, was hardly fair to certain librarians who are, at least, whatever their failures, trying meritoriously to progress and to divest themselves of the hidebound professional rules that seem to be your contributor's ideal of librarianship. He lays down the law as if his views were outside discussion. Would he not be more cogent if he stated his opinions, and his reasons for those opinions, with due regard to the fact that a great many able librarians take a widely different view? Perhaps, also, he would be more persuasive if he signed his name; certainly it would accord better with *The Library World's* reputation for strict impartiality. At present he is like a man behind a wall who, without even exposing his head to single out his enemy, flings a noxious missile into a crowd.

I am, yours faithfully,  
ERNEST A. BAKER.

Midland Railway Institute, Derby,  
November 22nd, 1901.

[The full particulars of the work referred to in the article of which Mr. Baker complains were struck out of proof at the moment of going to press out of a perhaps mistaken consideration for the compiler, and it did not occur to us that anyone could apply the reference to Mr. Baker's Handbook, reviewed some time back, on its appearance, in these columns. However, if we have done Mr. Baker an injustice, we apologise; it was inadvertently. As for the opinions expressed, they are the Editor's opinions, and we take full responsibility for them. We cannot understand Mr. Baker's charge of unfairness. Surely when Mr. Baker finds *The Library World* refusing him or any other librarian the freedom of its columns to reply to any statements or opinions they consider wrong, it will be time enough to throw doubt upon its "strict impartiality"—till then it is both unfair and untrue. As to the question of librarians' evaluation of books we shall be glad to have opinions, one way or the other. We would beg leave to point out, however, what we tried to point out in the article last month, that the question *now* is not so much—Shall we have evaluations by a critic who happens to be a librarian, like Mr. Baker, but—Shall we have evaluations by librarians who evaluate as such, as part of their work, whether they are "critics fitted" or "critics ready-made." In a word, must criticism be first-rate, or is second-, third-, fourth-rate criticism better than nothing? —THE EDITOR.]

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## EDITORIAL.

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**The Novel in Municipal Libraries.**

SOME recent investigations into the subject of novels and novel-reading in Public Libraries have led to a very considerable modification of our opinion in the matter. At one time we shared the common belief that every Public Library was a huge repository for the storage of the novels of all times and countries, and that these were read largely to the exclusion of every other form of literature. This opinion is still held, we believe, by many prominent politicians, journalists, librarians, and the rank and file of the opponents of municipal libraries; but it is hoped that this article will completely dissipate the clouds of misconception which have arisen in connection with the subject.

We are told by the traducers of Public Libraries that these collections are formed mainly of "trashy" novels, "filthy" novels, "immoral" novels, and "soul-corrupting" novels. Other epithets are used, but the examples given will suffice for our immediate purpose. These so-called trashy-filthy-immoral, &c., novels are credited with causing much of that degeneracy in literary taste which leads to the enormous consumption of mental intoxicants in the shape of tit-bits, weekly and monthly collections of pictures with feeble literary matter, and all the mass of snippet literature which arose during the last twenty years of the nineteenth century. Novel-reading, and especially Public Library novel-reading, has been loaded with the responsibility of inciting people to crime; of suggesting methods of fraud, theft, and even murder; it is charged with tempting senators to neglect their legislative duties, and causing errand-boys to linger on the road; it is supposed to furnish text-books to every species of moral backsliding, from lying to seduction and bigamy: in short, there is no crime or immoral lesson which the Pecksniffs and Chadbands who vouch for propriety and purity cannot trace to the reading of novels from Public Libraries. The attitude of these censors reminds us of a well-known book-collector, who sneered at municipal libraries and their work, and suggested that they collected nothing save rubbish, but who, nevertheless, bequeathed to the British Museum a huge collection of international pornographic literature, pictorial and otherwise, which the present Trustees will not take the responsibility of making publicly accessible. So much for one aspect of this question. If, as Messrs. Pecksniff, Chadband & Co. assert, Public Libraries are largely centres for the distribution of literary poison, why do they not invite the powerful co-operation of the police in suppressing such dangerous plague-spots? Probably they know that their wilful exaggerations, which serve excellently well for platform and public purposes, would not stand the test of an open inquiry. We have often wondered why the philanthropic

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gentlemen aforesaid are so assiduous in their attentions to Public Libraries, while they remain blind to the really dangerous and improper literature which circulates in pamphlet and leaflet form among such centres as the small newsagents, tobacconists, barbers, and public-houses of great towns. We commend an inquiry of this kind to the attention of the purists who condemn Public Libraries on false information. When they have concluded their labours, they will be glad to enter the first Public Library they encounter for a breath of fresh air!

We have carefully examined the printed catalogues of about one hundred Public Municipal Libraries, distributed over an area ranging from Penzance to Kirkwall and from Yarmouth to Sligo, and we have found nothing worse than occasional sets of Fielding and other classical writers of an important period in English literature. Indeed, our chief regret, after examining these catalogues, is that the excessive care of Public Library authorities for the morals of their constituents should have made it impossible for the genuine student to examine the masterpieces mentioned and described in his literary text-books. The novels which are commonly regarded by purists as dangerous to the public morality—by the way, it is wonderful how wide and accurate *their* knowledge is of the class of literature they condemn!—are conspicuous by their absence from the shelves of practically every British municipal library. We look in vain for unexpurgated versions of the early Greek romances, the works of Boccaccio, Rabelais, Bandello, Straparola, Mrs. Manley, and all the long procession of French, Spanish, German and English novelists who chronicle the facts of life in a free or realistic manner. Students will look in vain in the catalogues of British Public Libraries for even the comparatively harmless romances of Flaubert, Zola, George Moore, Paul de Kock, and Ouida. Many libraries even exclude the early sensational tales of Miss Braddon, and others only add new fiction after it has undergone the ordeal of a twelvemonth's probation. Contrast this high standard of literary taste and selection with the practice of the great political and social clubs which are frequented by Messrs. Pecksniff and friends. There you will find Boccaccio and all the rest of them on tap, in the most literal and unexpurgated versions. There, the advocate of literary purity in the poor man's club—the Public Library—will find versions of the "Arabian Nights" in the translations of Sir R. Burton and Payne, which only Oriental scholars are supposed to read. Judging by the well-thumbed and worn appearance of Burton's version in certain well-known and world-wide London clubs, we should be disposed to think that there must be thousands of Oriental scholars in London alone! The evidence we have collected is enough to prove that Public Municipal Libraries only collect and circulate the best and most innocuous novels. It is true many of them are compelled to buy goody-goody and wishy-washy novels which have no great literary value, but it must be remembered that such books are extremely popular among a very large body of young people who cannot, as yet, grasp anything stronger. We do not apologise for this kind of literature; the reasons for its presence furnish a sufficient argument.

Now, as to the constant complaint that only novels are read in municipal libraries: we are in a position to prove that this is an exaggeration based upon a fallacy. Novels are largely *circulated* from Public Libraries, but they are not *read*. What happens in many cases is this. Owing to the cunning artifices of certain publishers and novelists, aided by their log-rolling accomplices in the ranks of journalism, certain books are so widely advertised and boomed that public curiosity is aroused, and inquiries are made for the novels which have achieved this spurious fame. One such novel, which we shall not further advertise by naming, bears this record on the label which registers when and how often it has been issued to readers:—

Mar. 11	Mar. 20	Apl. 1
Mar. 12	Mar. 21	Apl. 3 [Easter intervened]
Mar. 14	Mar. 25	Apl. 9,
Mar. 16	Mar. 26	&c.

The novel in question is one which would take a week's hard reading to finish, so that it is quite evident that only the readers of March 26th and April 3rd could have seriously attempted to tackle it. Yet, in the record of issues, which is also the test of popularity and the guide to what is mostly *read* in libraries, we have eleven withdrawals of this book in which it is only possible to count two actual readings. There are hundreds of novels in exactly the same case. They are withdrawn to-day and returned to-morrow. No sensible person in search of pastime-reading will waste time and attention upon the ponderous problem-novels issued by the Caines, Corellis, Hardys, Malets, Wards, and etceteras of this day; nor will anyone be bothered with the treatises on psychology written by past-masters in the art of boring, from Sterne to Anthony Trollope. The public are beginning to find out that sermons disguised as novels are not acceptable, and, though they are often deluded into taking such books as the "Eternal City," because urged by a desire to examine the latest well-advertised novelty, they show their good sense by promptly returning them after they have read the title-pages and been gently lulled to sleep by the intolerable dullness of Chapter I. Other novels, of well-established reputation, are quickly returned because they are old-fashioned, or because people dislike to have stale plots and situations served up as something fresh by the simple expedient of changing the "local colour." The alleged enormous and disproportionate reading of novels in Public Libraries is, therefore, a complete fallacy, based upon a weak method of computing issues instead of readings. This abuse of figures should no longer be tolerated by Library Authorities, and it is to be hoped that the next itinerant journalistic fiction concerning the excessive reading of novels in municipal libraries will be met, and squashed, by a citation of this explanation, at some point in its perambulations from London to Land's End and John-o'-Groat's.



## EDWARDS AND GREENWOOD.

THE TWO CHIEF PILLARS OF THE LIBRARY  
MOVEMENT.

THE following interesting article appeared in *The Daily News* of December 10th last, and, as it may have escaped the notice of many librarians, it is reprinted here as a document of considerable historical interest. We have already in these columns referred to Mr. Greenwood's magnificent work on behalf of the Public Library movement, and this additional notice will serve as a supplement to that article:—

“Early next year a granite monument will be placed on the hitherto unnamed grave of Edward Edwards, the chief pioneer of the increasingly successful Municipal Library Movement.

“The grave is situated at Niton, in the Isle of Wight, and the inaugural ceremony will be performed by Dr. Richard Garnett, late of the British Museum. The generous donor of the monument is Mr. Thomas Greenwood, author of the well-known work on Public Libraries which has already passed through four editions, and of which a fifth is now in active preparation. It has played such an important part in popularising and extending the adoption of ‘free’ Public Libraries that it has well been called the Charter of the movement.

“Mr. Greenwood has with great care traced Edwards's history, and he told the present writer that ‘although Ewart, assisted by Joseph Brotherton, rendered invaluable services in championing the Municipal Library Bill of 1850 through Parliament, yet the man who supplied the material of facts and details, and even the enthusiasm—the real power and force behind the men in Parliament—was undoubtedly the comparatively unknown Edward Edwards.

“‘For many months,’ continued Mr. Greenwood, ‘I have been tracing his life story. He was born in London, and lived in Idol Lane, in the City, and in his earlier years was largely influenced by Dr. Thomas Binney, of the King's Weigh House Congregational Church, and also by Mr. W. J. Fox, of the South Place Institute; later in life he attached himself to the Church of England.

“‘He took up the free Public Libraries question—or, as I prefer to call it, the municipal libraries question, for they are supported by the municipality—in, or about, 1836, and from that time forward he wrote and worked for the movement with an enthusiasm and a pertinacity that only death itself could quench. Humanly speaking, the numerous municipal libraries we now rejoice to see in so many places are largely owing to his zealous and strenuous labours.

“‘He was a servant of the British Museum from 1839 to 1850, and he became the first librarian under the Act, for he was the first librarian of the Manchester Public Library, and managed all the pre-

liminary work involved in establishing and stocking that most excellent institution. But, while a scholarly and most able man, he yet possessed faults of temper which hindered his advancement in the several appointments of importance which he occupied. Nevertheless, his kindness to his mother and sisters, and his tender solicitude for their welfare, form an exceedingly pretty trait in his character. I have ninety-seven letters addressed by his sisters to him, extending over a long period, and illustrating in numerous instances his constant financial help, pinching himself on many occasions, as he must have done, to assist those near and dear to him. He spent much of his time and thought in preparing books on the library question—books which, from their limited sale, could not certainly have brought him much return. And it is sad to find that he died in loneliness and poverty. This event took place in 1886, about six months before the first edition of my book was issued, and I have been for some time engaged in gathering materials for writing an appreciation of his life and work, which I trust may win him his due place in public esteem.

“It has been quite a hunt, involving considerable expense to get his remaining books, note-books, manuscripts, and letters. I did it by advertising, and by following up any traces I could find. I am still engaged on the task. After his death, some of his effects—about 2,000 of his books, note-books, &c.—were sold by auction by Hodgsons, in Chancery Lane.’

“In parenthesis the writer may say that Mr. Greenwood has himself given great impetus to the movement. Without fee he has been doing the work of a society in popularising and extending the adoption of the Acts, conducting a huge correspondence, giving lectures, and sending out books and circulars on the subject wholesale, and the Municipal Library Movement owes him an immense debt for the persistent and passionately enthusiastic efforts which he has made on its behalf. He has frequently refused nominations on public bodies in order that he may give time and energy to the advancement of the cause.

“And what caused you to take such deep and abiding interest in the subject, Mr. Greenwood?’

“As a boy I became a borrower from the first Public Library in Manchester, and I learned to greatly appreciate its advantages. I began a course of reading, which I have found helpful all through my later life. Yes, it was the old Campfield Library in Deansgate—the first library established under the Act of 1850. Then, as a traveller, I made use of libraries wherever I found them. Municipal libraries had then been established in such towns as Liverpool, Birmingham, Leicester, Derby, Wolverhampton, and other towns. In the course of a few years I was appointed librarian at one of the branches of the Sheffield Public Libraries. That gave me an insight into their inner working, and increased my interest until it became a passion.

“It is a peculiarity of the movement that it is entirely voluntary. All the preliminary work of canvassing the ratepayers and securing the adoption of the Acts is all voluntary, and the good people who agitate

- (6) "then left the room hurriedly with a stiff and formal bow to"  
 "Eurasian woman, who pretended she'd been badly treated."  
 (7) "and to speak of how much admired he was"  
 "kissing her ; why, then, Selah," &c.

Another form assumed by the literary classic, as revised by the Public Library editor, is the triangular recension which is sometimes known as the "pipe-light." Its nature is best indicated by the graphic example attached :—

"When  
 member. How  
 "I have more  
 friend?"  
 "Never mind," said M  
 all your friends. Are the  
 Somewhat confounded, M  
 corner behind the door, with her  
 a long and patient silence :"

Much has been written about the catastrophes which happen to short-sighted clergymen who turn over two pages of the Bible instead of one, when reading in church, but we opine these experiences are not so numerous nor so humorous as the extraordinary continuations and alterations resulting from the excision and partial tearing of pages from Public Library books.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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THE *Library Association Record* for September has at length made its appearance. It contains the address of the President (Mr. G. K. Fortescue) at the last annual meeting on "The British Museum and the Completion of the General Catalogue of Printed Books"; an account of the "Proceedings at the Meeting at Plymouth"; and the Report of the Council.

*The Library Journal* for October contains "A Child's Thoughts about Books and Libraries," by N. M. Hall; "The Question of Discipline," by L. E. Stearns; "Coloured Covers for Special Subjects," by F. L. Rathbone; the usual reviews, notes, and news; and an illustration of the Carnegie Building, Decatur, with plans. The New York Library Association has held a meeting at Lake Placid of no small importance; "it seemed indeed an A.L.A. Conference in little."

Three definite lines of work were outlined at the meeting, which are likely to have interesting results. These are, briefly, the publication of short reading lists on selected subjects, to be available in quantities by Public Libraries at a minimum sub-

scription price ; the promotion of general knowledge regarding the library movement, through special articles in the newspaper and periodical press ; and the establishment of a series of "library institutes" in the more remote districts of the State.

None of these notions is, of course, young. The reading list idea is in fact quite middle-aged, but it is nevertheless strong and valuable. On the second notion we should like to lay stress : it cannot be denied that a large section of the public do not take libraries seriously, and it has been asserted over and over again by many librarians that only the vaguest idea of the great amount and importance of the work carried on behind the scenes exists in the minds of ratepayers. The following editorial is of interest :—

Dr. Richard Garnett, who won the affectionate esteem of all librarians and readers who ever came in contact with him during his long period of service at the British Museum, and who is by virtue of that service the dean of the English library-profession, has been held in the constant affection of his fellow-craftsmen since the retirement which has enabled him to devote himself more fully to literary work. It is the more to be regretted, therefore, that his name should be used in a cheap advertising way by the exploiting side of enterprises with which he has editorial connection, as in the case of the so-called "Anthological Society," which seems to be one of the ordinary devices for selling a set of books. There is, of course, not the same objection to the use of Dr. Garnett's name in this connection that there has been on this side to the use of the name of Mr. Spofford, because the latter is still an official of the national library. But it is a pity to have a respected name thus misused for merely commercial ends, and his American friends will wish that Dr. Garnett, who quite possibly knows personally [nothing?] about it, could cause his name to be withdrawn from the kind of exploitation now going on.

We turned to the article on "Coloured Covers" with some eagerness, expecting to find there some new practical idea. The idea is comparatively new, but whether practical or not is another matter. The proposal is to apply a colour solution to the standard literature problem. Colour in covers would serve two purposes ; variety of colour, besides attracting attention, might also mark certain classes of books. One colour, for example, the most attractive in the material used, could represent standard fiction, and contrasting shades of it could be used to break up the monotony of sets. Covers could be used temporarily instead of permanent bindings, where re-binding is unnecessary, or for experiment, and choice shades can be found in vellum *de luxe*. We might get something of this sort :—

	<i>Fiction.</i>	
Standard fiction	{ covered } { (or) } { bound }	in shades of green.

More recent stories especially enjoyable	{ covered (or) bound }	in shades of blue.
Other readable stories	{ covered (or) bound }	in shades of red.
<i>Non-Fiction.</i>		
Standard literature	{ covered (or) bound }	in green.
Conceded authorities	{ covered (or) bound }	in brown.
Other books to be read for pleasure	{ covered (or) bound }	in red.

This is an amazingly pretty scheme ; it would make amazingly pretty shelves. But it comes from a lady, and must be considered. We understand perfectly well what books are to be bound in shades of red, the damned with faint praise, the "readables"; the eminently readable," as the reviewer says when he is a gracious mood : oh, we know well enough what the readables are, those which are left when we have deducted the "standards" and the "especially enjoyables." But what are the "standards"? There's the rub. And the "especially enjoyables"? We do not know how matters stand in the States, but in England the more rubbishy the fiction the more "especially enjoyable" it is to a certain class of readers. Besides, one section finds Henry James enjoyable, another finds a seventh heaven in Boothby. In the case of non-fiction works the difficulty is even greater. Which books are standard non-fiction? Who are the conceded authorities? And how *can* a librarian tell whether this or that book is to be read "for pleasure"? We have no faith in the idea : all librarians are not critics, most of them are only criticasters, and any attempt to label books as to their quality would only lead to disaster.

*The Library Assistant* for November contains Mr. C. Welch's address, "The Young Librarian: His Training and Possibilities," delivered at the Guildhall on the occasion of the October meeting. This paper deals with three points, "First, the duty of reverence for books; secondly, the duty of courtesy; thirdly, the duty of self-improvement." Much excellent advice is given to the young lions of the profession, and we hope they will take it, become less rampant, and consent to be led in the way they should go. There is an appreciation of the late Mr. Foskett, by Mr. C. F. Newcombe; and the usual notes and news.

*The Library* for October is not so good as some of the preceding numbers, but contains nevertheless excellent reading. There is a



portrait of, and short biographical article on, Mr. Melvil Dewey ; Irish Provincial Printing prior to 1701, by E. R. McC. Dix ; Evelyn's Essay on "Publick Employment and on Active Life," by G. R. Redgrave ; The King's Printing House under the Stuarts, by H. R. Plomer ; Lessing as a Librarian, by Archibald Clarke ; James Gaver, by W. H. Allnutt ; Forgeries in Bookbinding, by Cyril Davenport ; A Famous Printer, Samuel Richardson, by W. B. Thorne ; The Church Library at Michelstadt im Odenwald, by W. E. A. Axon ; and Impressions of the L.A. Conference, by X.—this last a very interesting and clear *résumé*.



### LIBRARY MAGAZINES.

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#### **Library Association Record.** October, 1901.

Hulme, E. W. On the construction of the subject catalogue in scientific and technical libraries.

Dictionary Catalogues *versus* Classified Catalogues for Public Libraries.

The Classified Catalogue, by J. Henry Quinn.

The Dictionary Catalogue, by W. E. Doubleday.

Leather for bookbinding [Society of Arts Report], by W. B. Rye. Notes and News, &c.

#### **The Library Record of Australasia.** October, 1901.

Professor Charles Badham [with portrait].

Library Notes [From the various Colonies].

Some more Victorian Magazines, by H. G. Turner.

The Main Problem [Book Selection] by N. MacMunn.

Women as Library assistants, by H. C. L. Anderson.

Best Books [Astronomy]. New Books, &c.

#### **The Library Journal.** November, 1901.

Compiling a Bibliography, I., by G. W. Cole.

"The Science of Library Statistics," by F. J. Teggart.

The Desk Assistant, by A. B. Kroeger.

Printed Catalog Cards from the Library of Congress

[Description of the new arrangements for supplying them].

Do Readers Read? by A. Bostwick.

Reports of State Library Commission, State Library Associations, Library Clubs, Schools and Training Classes, Reviews, News, &c.



## REVIEWS.

o o o

**Richardson, Ernest Cushing.** Classification: Theoretical and Practical: I., The Order of the Sciences, II., The Classification of Books: with an Essay towards a Bibliographical History of Systems of Classification: the New York State Library School Association Alumni Lectures, 1900-1901. 14 + 248 pp. 1901. Scribner's Sons. 1 dollar 25 cents., net.

We have read this book with a great deal of pleasure. As indicated in our description of the book above, the lectures discuss the nature, kinds, and laws of classification; the order of the sciences; the classification of books, embracing book classification as an art, book and card classification, the objects, importance and kinds of book classification, the likeness and the differences between theoretical and book classification, the criteria of a book classification; and the bibliographical appendix. The invitation to deliver the lectures was a double one:—

On the one hand from a representative of the school who wished something on the philosophical order which should be a contribution to the theory of library science, and on the other hand from a representative of the alumni who wished something very practical. The lectures are the result of an attempt to meet both wishes, even at the risk of falling between two stools. There is a perhaps small, but very earnest, number of librarians at the present day who are extremely anxious that the rising generation of librarians should be thoroughly grounded in the habit of searching the historical and philosophical basis of their art to the very bottom. They believe that the real progress of things in years to come depends precisely on that thing, that there is no danger of any neglect of the most thorough study of practical method in every aspect, but that there is danger that the habit of scientific thought will be neglected. They believe as cordially as any that the scholar without business ability and training is as much out of place in a library as he would be in Wall Street, but they believe also, and with equal conviction, that the best banker without literary and scholarly attainment is a pitiable spectacle as a librarian.

The following is the graphic statement of the hypothetical order of the sciences at which the author arrived:—

## HYLOLOGY:

Mathematics.  
Physics.  
Chemistry.  
Astronomy.  
Geology.

## BIOLOGY:

Botany.  
Zoology.  
Physical anthropology (?)

## ANTHROPOLOGY :

Psychology (human).  
 Epistemology.  
 Æsthetics.  
 Useful arts.  
 Fine arts.  
 Language and literature.  
 Ethics (?).  
 Sociology (includ. History).

## THEOLOGY :

Cosmology.  
 Christology.  
 Ecclesiology.  
 Theology proper.

The author passes from the classification of ideas to the classification of books. He points out that, although ideas may be classified with theoretic exactitude, books, which always comprise a variety of ideas, just as a geological specimen consists of a variety of chemical elements, cannot be so classified. Assuming the existence of growth of ideas in a thinker's brain, the genius or the thinker of the highest intellectuality is the man who, by reflection, and with the assistance of good health, is able to classify his ideas.

Books . . . are real petrifications, or rather planets in an advanced stage of evolution, where the mass of ideas has passed out of the fluid into the solid unchanging state. They do not therefore, however, differ "radically" from other complex masses in the matter of their classification. It follows therefore that a librarian must follow the true scientific order in arranging his books as those who classify geological specimens, with, of course, the modifications which are practically common factors in all classification of concrete things.

The principal modifications are :—

- (a) Modification by circumstances (or variations arising from environment.)
- (b) Variation arising from the nature of books.
- (c) Differences arising from intended use, chief among which are (1) the adjustment to building; (2) the principles of subdivision; (3) the question of degree and proportion in subdivision.

In his remarks on (a) Mr. Richardson, speaking particularly of the use of schedules already drawn up and in general use—

The great gain to librarians trained in one set of schedules, or to users similarly trained, in being able, in passing from one library to another, to use the same system is obvious. In cases therefore where the main classes do not overlap and contradict one another, and especially where the variations are merely matters of geographical order or personal taste, the giving up of a practical system actually in use for one ideally better is to be deprecated, except when the new is so markedly better that it is likely to command general use. For this reason the Dewey Decimal Classification, from the very fact of its wide use, will probably endure long after some of the systems now arising, which have more pretension to follow the true order of the

sciences, are dead (though having said this much it should be said also that the tenacity of the Dewey Classification is due even more to a certain versatility and hospitality towards adjustments within its limits). It is for this reason, too, together with the other very important circumstance that they are more fully worked out than others, that librarians generally, even those who like the writer have a special system better adapted, as they think, to their own libraries, always advise other librarians to "take Dewey or Cutter" rather than their own.

We are told that the criteria of a good classification for books are as follows:—

- (1) It should follow as nearly as possible the order of things. A properly classified library is perhaps the nearest thing that there is to a microcosm. A human mind which knew all things might be more perfect in this regard, but in reality no one can or does keep the whole of things in mind as a library does. It must therefore follow the order of complexity or of history, or, if you please, of evolution.
- (2) It should be carried out in minute detail.
- (3) It should be provided with a notation which will allow for indefinite subdivision, using mixed symbols, but with a predominant decimal base.
- (4) It should be provided with a detailed and specific index.
- (5) The value of such a system is increased in direct ratio to the generalness of its use.

How do existing systems answer these requirements? The Halle system is disproportionate and its notation entirely too complex, but it is in some respects the most logical of leading systems. The system of Bonazzi is too brief and broad, and its notation is not satisfactory. Rowell's University of California system is also too brief, and its notation cumbersome for interpolation. But it is sensible in its order and division. Practically speaking, the Decimal Classification and the Expansive Classification are the only ones of considerable extent which can be counted finished, and the E.C. is still a little short of that. In the matter of criteria of use, complete indexing and general practicality, the D.C. is of course without rival. It is somewhat out of proportion at certain points, but perhaps not seriously so. Its general order, though in many classes admirable, is less satisfactory logically on the whole than either the E.C. or the Halle system.

The lectures occupy 90 pp. ; the bibliographical appendix 146 pp. The latter aims at furnishing a bibliographical guide for the student of classification, especially for the library school student, and its method looks chiefly to the exhausting of the most accessible sources in such way that the student may feel that he has references to information on

all the most generally recognised systems, rather than the information itself. Brief outlines are, however, given of a few systems and longer ones of a very few systems significant practically at the present time. In addition references are made to the best articles discussing the systems. Concerning Dewey Mr. Richardson says :

This system, begun in 1873, first published in 1876, published in fourth edition in 1891 and reprinted, and now perhaps shortly to be published again in new edition, has probably had more vogue than any other bibliographical system ever published, save possibly that of Brunet. Taken as a whole, and regarding the substantially unchanging form and notation, among the multitude of derived systems with minor variations, it is undoubtedly true that no system ever invented has been applied to as many libraries (probably at the present day several thousand) as this. In many libraries considerable changes have been made, but in the majority it remains practically unchanged. It is now being adopted very generally on the continent of Europe by booksellers even as well as libraries, and is of late, through its adoption by the Brussels Institut, having a very zealous propaganda by its converts, especially in France and Italy. Many of the most noteworthy partial classifications of the present day are avowedly founded on and are enlargements of this system. . . . The reasons for its deserved popularity are to be found :—(1) in an intelligent and consistent application of the decimal notation (not new with Dewey, but first by him vigorously and consistently applied); (2) in the grasp of mnemonic possibilities of this situation; (3) in the practical, intelligent, and often up-to-date management of the remoter subdivisions of the, in some places, somewhat artificial, larger sub-classes; (4) in the fully printed schedules with their “relativ index,” which more than anything else is the cause of the practicality of this system and its wide adoption. In other words, its popularity has been due to intelligent practical usefulness.

He has also a good word for Cutter; and of Mr. J. D. Brown's manual he remarks :—

The book, as a whole, is the best short monograph on library classification-

This bibliography is one of the best and most exhaustive that we have seen.

Indeed, the work is worthy of the highest praise. It has been a pleasure to read technical literature which at once bears evidence of deep thought, and thorough sympathy with the practical difficulties of our craft. We hope that it will have a good sale in England; every authority alive to the need of giving staff facilities for extending its ideas and experience of a good classification will, we are sure, not delay to purchase it.

S.

**Souvenir of Sir Arthur Sullivan, Mus. Doc., M.V.O.** A Brief Sketch of his life and works. By Walter J. Wells. With portraits, facsimiles and illustrations. viii. + 104 pp. London: George Newnes, Ltd., 1901. Price 3s. 6d.

This handsomely illustrated monograph forms an interesting memorial of one of the most popular and prominent musicians of modern times. It deals chiefly with the personal side of Sullivan's career, detailing his life as choir-boy, student, organist and successful composer of light operas, with incidental notices of his private friends and methods of work. Interesting descriptions are given of the Savoy operas, written in collaboration with Mr. W. S. Gilbert and others, which include outlines of plots and particulars of first productions, &c.

The strictly musical side of Sullivan's life is only slightly noticed, although a good list of his works is given which has value. Although his relations with various court-personages are described, no mention has been made of his friendship with the late Duke of Saxe-Coburg. The book does not pretend to a critical analysis of Sullivan's position in British music, but is purely a "souvenir," as its title implies, and as such will be of interest to the many who enjoyed his long series of light operas.

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#### **The Public Library Journal (Cardiff).**

Glancing at the parts of this quarterly journal which appeared last year, we are reminded of our appreciation of this publication in August, 1900, when we called the attention of our readers to the value of such a combined library and museum journal as this, which is produced by the co-operation of a competent librarian with a competent curator. Though all towns do not possess men so qualified for the task as Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Ward, we cannot but think more might be done in this direction in other places, which are fortunate enough to own a good library and museum.

The interest of the *Public Library Journal* is largely increased by the addition of illustrations. We find local portraits, blocks from new works, and—what are of great value—prints from Mr. Ward's drawings of objects added to the museum.

Space will only allow us to mention a few articles of special interest in the four parts.

A description of the Scott collection occupies the first page of the January part, accompanied by a striking likeness of Mr. William Scott, the generous donor of his entire collection of Welsh books and MSS. It is with sadness we notice that the opening paragraph of the March journal records the death of this friend of libraries, in the prime of life.

"Notes and News" affords interesting little comments, with occasional reference to books added to the library. Lists of books added to the reference and lending library are usefully classified. Official matters relating to the central and branch libraries are duly chronicled as occasion requires.

Mr. Murray's new illustrated edition of Borrow's "Wild Wales" naturally receives much notice in this Welsh journal, for few Englishmen know Wales as strange George Borrow knew the principality he loved so well. Reproductions of a view of Machynlleth and of Devil's Bridge accompany the review.

Sandby's view of the West Gate of Cardiff (1775-1777) in the library is reproduced as a frontispiece to the June part. This part also contains a portrait of Christopher Love, a Cardiff worthy who eventually found his way to the scaffold on Tower Hill, in 1651.

Though other articles of interest appear in the library section of the journal, it is necessary to refer briefly to the museum section, so lovingly contributed by the curator, Mr. John Ward, F.S.A.

In January, Mr. T. H. Thomas chronicles the progress made by the committee in collecting casts of the pre-Norman monuments of Wales. The Penalty Cross is well illustrated. Mr. Ward gives a sketch of the "interlocking" ridge tiles peculiar to Wales and its border, also a drawing of a recently acquired *mortarium*, or mortar, from the "camp" at Galligaer, in South Wales.

Remains from St. Fagan's are illustrated by a half-tone block of an interesting Celtic vessel, in the March part, while recent discoveries at Roath are referred to in June.

Not the least interesting portion of this part is devoted to a life and portrait of the late John Storrie, a hard-working man, printer, naturalist, geologist, and antiquary, once curator of the Cardiff Museum—a self-educated, whole-hearted man, worthy to be bracketed with those two other Scottish working-men naturalists, Thomas Edward and Robert Dick.

**Transactions and Proceedings** of the Library Association of Australasia at its Second General Meeting, held at Adelaide, October 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th, 1900. lxxxvi + 113 pp. Adelaide: C. E. Bristow, 1901. [London: Library Supply Co., Price 5/6 *net*.]

This is the permanent record of the successful meeting of the Australian librarians at their annual congress in 1900, which was reported in our pages at the time. The full texts of the papers, then briefly summarised, are given, and the catalogue of the loan exhibition is included; but no report of the discussions on the papers is printed. The practical papers include:—

Bookbinding in Public Libraries, by J. S. Battye.

Library Classification, by A. W. Brazier.

Newspaper Reading Rooms, by A. Neville.

Relation of heating arrangements to the conservation of books, &c., by J. G. O. Tepper.

Most of the papers were of a bibliographical or historical character, thereby following the lead of the Mother Country; the papers on practical subjects, especially the one on classification seem to follow American lines, although with considerable colonial independence. In

these days of slavish adherence to the Dewey *notation*, it is somewhat startling to find a mere colonial stoutly upholding the pre-eminence of *classification* as opposed to book-marking. There can be no doubt that one of the chief hindrances to progress in America is the blind adoption of Dewey's system, not so much because it is a good classification but chiefly because it is convenient for book-marking purposes. In this way it is very likely that the decimal classification will run everything into a mere mechanical groove, which will stifle originality, check progress, and still further tend to the production of smart clerks rather than great librarians.

We strongly commend the Australian method of issuing its publications to the attention of the Library Association of the Mother Country. It would be infinitely more satisfactory to have an annual volume of transactions, with a punctual organ of official matters issued in a smaller form, rather than the present huge and expensive folio, which publishes only a selection of papers, and cannot attain to punctuality even in this; while its inclusion of strong critical and other opinions under the *ægis* of the Association, is at best a doubtful policy.



## NOTES FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

*By* AN AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIAN.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA.—The Annual Report of the librarian of this library for the year ended June, 1901, shows that the library contained 46,266 volumes on June 30th, and that the collection had been increased during the year by 1,868 volumes. A classified schedule shows the number of volumes in each division of the library, from which it is observed that periodicals (including newspapers) represent 9,333 volumes, and that 9,561 volumes consist of British and Colonial State Papers and Patent Office Publications. 77,276 persons visited the library during the year, the average attendance being on week days 235 and on Sundays 127. The newspaper and magazine reading-rooms attract more visitors than the library, but as no provision exists for registering the attendance, it is impossible to give any particulars. By donation the library acquired 938 volumes, 484 pamphlets, maps and plans, and 51 periodicals, representing 3,242 separate issues. Special recognition is made of the consistent kindness and courtesy which has been received in this connection from the Director of the New York Public Library. An appeal is made to the inhabitants to take all relics of the early history of the State to the Public Librarian, who has always regarded that department of the library as the most important one, and is prepared to recommend the



purchase of anything of the kind not already in the collection. It has not been possible to publish a monthly bulletin, but through the assistance of the press a list of the additions to the library, with references, when it appears necessary to give them, to the principal features of the works, has appeared from month to month in one of the daily papers. This has induced many people to come to the library who otherwise would not have done so. A regional bureau in connection with the International Catalogue of Scientific Literature has been established in the city of Adelaide, the work of indexing the scientific literature published in the State, being placed in the hands of the Public Librarian.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIAN LIBRARIES.**—An interesting return which was prepared for the Report of the Proceedings of the Library Association of Australasia for 1900 indicates that there are 169 libraries in the State subsidised by Government. The Government has contributed to date £124,778 16s. 6d. towards buildings for these libraries and £191,302 16s. 11d. as annual subsidies, on the subscriptions of members. The total number of volumes contained in these libraries is 332,872.

**LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.**—The Transactions and Proceedings of the Adelaide Meeting of the Library Association of Australasia, which was held in October, 1900, has only just appeared. The editor apologises for the delay in its publication, which has been caused by circumstances which he was unable to control. The volume is, however, a very interesting one, and, besides the eighteen papers which deal with many sides of library work, it contains a return showing the library statistics of South Australia, specially compiled for the volume, and a loan exhibition catalogue covering 113 pages, and giving much valuable bibliographical information concerning works bearing upon Australasia. The volume is published at 5s. 6d. net, and may be obtained from the Library Supply Co., 181, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C. The Proceedings of the 1898 meeting of the Association are now out of print.



## TRAVELLING LIBRARIES.

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"I'VE no books to read." Who does not know what this means when stranded at some strange house or inn, away in the country, with nothing save "The Bible" and "Paradise Lost," wherewith to feed our hunger for the printed page. How the hours drag. Are there *only* twenty-four in a day? How on earth did our ancestors contrive to reach a good old age without a "constant supply" from Smiths' or Mudies'? We forget sometimes that there are thousands of people in our villages and non-public-library—we have taken out a license for this compound—towns, who are almost wholly cut off

from the stream of current literature, and who have to endure the whole year round what it throws some of us on our beam ends to face for a single winter's evening, especially when we are alone. If "the first wealth is health," the second wealth to many a one is assuredly books. And one of the problems of the hour, in the library world, is how to bring books to the people in the villages, by extending the Public Library movement so as to include them. Pending this extension—the only real solution of the problem—there is some interest in the working of book clubs, and in the ingenious "Travelling Library," of Mr. Parmelee, U.S.

An anonymous letter in *The Saturday Review* contains an account of the latter, and also a method of running the former, from which we extract the pith:—

"The commonest thing is to find a number of people who want to see the usual run of the season's books, without any particular desire for special study. This want has been met very successfully, as we happen to know, by a sort of joint-stock arrangement. Twenty-six people, say, join together to buy books; each pays a guinea a year; and as many volumes are bought as will supply each member with at least a couple of books. (It is amazing how many books you can buy for £26, with the threepenny discount.) Once a fortnight the books are sent on from house to house in strict rotation, and by the end of the year, each of the twenty-six members has seen every volume in the collection. The books may then be sold, or formed into the nucleus of a permanent local library, or divided by lot among the members. The last plan seems to be most appreciated. The subscribers feel that with two or three new books on their shelves they have got something durable for their money; the acquisitive instinct is developed; the man of thrift reflects that the guinea was not thrown away; indeed, with a fine disregard of discount and second-hand prices he has been heard to rejoice that his talent has multiplied, his guinea has procured him a two-guinea biography.

"In America this plan has been developed on a larger scale. Take the book club described above, and for 'member' read 'town,' and you have the principle of the 'Travelling Library' devised and managed by Mr. H. Parmelee, of Des Moines, Iowa. A thousand different volumes on all subjects of general interest are distributed in twenty cabinets of fifty volumes each to twenty towns, and at fixed dates each cabinet travels on to the next town, so that at the end of five years the subscribers in all those twenty towns have had the opportunity (if they have the courage) to read the whole thousand books. Each town pays the cost of one cabinet, estimated at 50 dollars, and for this it enjoys the use of the other 950 books as well. This arrangement is said to have worked remarkably smoothly for some years, and an immense number of books are in circulation on the system. The inventor has recently added a new feature in what he calls 'the University of the Travelling Library.' The style is perhaps a little ambitious, but the notion has merits. Collections of books dealing with special subjects are substituted for the general libraries of the original plan,

and the subscribing towns are thus enabled to carry out a tolerably detailed course of study in forty different subjects. Examination papers are even supplied for each of these subjects, drawn up by specialists, and those students who answer them satisfactorily receive a 'diploma.' We also hear of prizes and other rewards. A good many conditions need to be fulfilled to ensure valuable results from this development of the system ; but at least it seems to offer a useful circle of 'home reading,' whilst to students who wish to work up a special subject, of which they possibly do not know the bibliography, the advantage of being able to command a series of books, if skilfully chosen by competent authorities, is not to be denied."

The National Union of Teachers has organised a travelling library system for village teachers, which is thus explained by the chairman of the Library Committee:—

"The basis of the scheme is 'The Reading Circle.'

"Let me illustrate how it may work.

"A village schoolmistress gets together, say, half-a-dozen of her village friends, not necessarily teachers, who form her 'reading circle,' she herself being the responsible 'centre.' She gets them to subscribe one penny per week, which from six members would amount to 25s. a year.

"Now, for 24s. a year she can have sent to her, carriage paid both ways to the nearest railway-station, or, if within the company's delivery, to her very door, boxes of books, containing in the aggregate more than £5 worth of popular literature—recent and popular works of fiction, poetry, romance, history, education, philosophy, &c.

"I may say that many of the books are very valuable, published as they are at prices ranging from six shillings to a guinea each, books that would be practically out of the reach of many of us but for some system of co-operation such as that provided by the N.U.T. library."



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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*[Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.]*

THERE have recently been a series of movements in London towards the extension of Public Libraries, but progress is slow. The Borough Council of **Wandsworth** have adopted the Public Libraries Acts for the parish of Tooting, thus making the district uniform in its services. At **St. Pancras**, a deputation has urged upon the Council the desirability of adopting the Acts, and the question is now pending. In **Hackney** a successful public meeting has been held, and a resolution passed calling upon the Council to take steps to adopt the Acts.

In **Finsbury**, the rate limit has been raised from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. in St. Sepulchre and Glasshouse Yard: the question of adopting the Acts for the Charterhouse has been postponed for six months: whilst the same question has been indefinitely postponed as regards the parish of St. Luke. At **Camberwell** the question of superintending librarian ~~versus~~ district librarians still remains to be fought out between the Public Libraries Committee and the Council.

THE following set of verses has appeared in a local paper in connection with a proposal to deposit certain "diphtheria outfits" in the Public Libraries of **Willesden**:—"If the libraries are finally fallen back upon I can imagine one of the librarians advertising—since sweet advertisement is the order of the day for libraries—the attractions of the establishment under his care with its mixture of balms for body and mind with some such song as the following at the next staff concert at Dyne Road:—

I've anti-serum, "index rerum," "Kim" and anti-toxin,  
With "Clementina," saccharina, crystal hematoxylin,  
There's belladonna, "Peace with Honour," ipecacuanha,  
With "Berna Boyle" and castor oil, mixed up with "Mariana."

There's bark cinchona, "Catriona," "Pickwick," salts and senna,  
Hypophosphites, turps for frost bites, vaccine *a la* Jenner,  
We've "Soldiers Three" and mercury, with bromide and "Aurora,"  
Anti-septics, pills dyspeptics swallow *semi-hora*.

There's Schopenhauer and sulphur flour, and powders antimonial,  
With "Savage Queen" and glycerine as used "In Halls Baronial,"  
"First Aid" appointments, lints and ointments, "Boy," elixir vitæ,  
"Uncle Stalky," camphored chalk-ee and "Seats of the Mighty."

There's Fuller's earth, Swinburne, Wordsworth and drugs from Alicante,  
With "Boscobel" and calomel, quinine and Hope's "Quisante,"  
Spirits of wine with iodine, all sadly complicated,  
But have no fear, though jumbled here, the *Books are Vaccinated.*"

In the *Glasgow Herald* recently the following description appeared of the Gorbals Public Library, the first to be established under the **Glasgow** Libraries' Scheme:—"It is placed in the halls on the first and second floors of the Corporation Baths Building in Main Street, entrance being obtained by a specially designed stone doorway, leading to a tiled lobby and a convenient and spacious stair. The name of the library is shown in gilt letters in a large panel in the balustrade at the top of the building. The library ranks as one of the first grade in respect of extent, fittings, stock of books and service. The premises consist of two long halls, each 130 ft. by 21 ft., with side rooms, providing accommodation for the staff, and for the storage of books, files of newspapers and magazines, &c. The hall on the first floor has a somewhat low ceiling, and is consequently not suited for the purposes of a general reading and news room, in which people will be sitting during the whole day. It has therefore been fitted up for the lending department, in which persons returning and taking out books remain a short time only, and for the boys' reading room, which will be open in the evening only. The lending department occupies the northern part of the hall, and the boys' reading room the southern end. Near

the entrance of the lending department are counters for the issue and return of books, and a frame for an indicator to fiction and juvenile literature. The bookcases are placed to the north. When the space is fully fitted up there will be accommodation for more than 20,000 volumes. The number with which the library will commence is somewhat over 10,000. The boys' reading room, at the south end of the hall, is fitted for the accommodation of about ninety readers. Boys will be required to come with clean hands, and to fill up a reader's ticket, giving name and address, and the title of the book desired. The books will be handed to the boys by the attendant, and must be returned by them before leaving. The second floor hall, which has a lofty ceiling, with roof lights, has been utilised for the general reading and news room and for a reading room for ladies and for girls. By way of adornment the panels in the upper portion of the walls have been filled by the names of eminent writers of all nations, with a preponderance of Scottish names. The newspaper stands occupy a portion of the room immediately opposite the entrance, and line the west and north walls. There is space for the exhibition of over thirty newspapers. A series of tables with chairs, provide suitable accommodation for the reading of such newspapers as are not on the stands and for the magazines. An important feature of this hall will be a selection of useful and interesting books for reading and consultation within the room only. These volumes, which will number over 400 are placed on open shelves, and may be made use of without the filling up of any application paper. The southern part of the upper hall, divided off by a glazed screen, is intended as a reading room for ladies, and a portion of it for young girls in the evenings. The premises, which have been entirely re-painted and decorated, are heated by a system of hot-water pipes, led from the baths adjoining, and have been fitted up with a complete installation of electric light to meet the requirements of all sections of readers. The fittings and furniture of fumed oak are of the most substantial and permanent character, and each reader is provided with a comfortable revolving chair. The total accommodation, without considering the lending department, will provide for over 300 readers present at one time, namely, 150 in the general reading-room, ninety in the boys' room, and over seventy in the room for ladies and girls.

THE newly organised reference library of 5,000 volumes was opened on November 8th by the Mayor of **Ipswich**, who was supported by the members of Parliament for the borough, the chairman and members of the committee, and other gentlemen. The books are housed in a handsome new room, with excellent accommodation for students.

WITHIN the short space of a fortnight **Dundee** has secured two munificent gifts. Quite recently Mr. Andrew Carnegie announced his intention of giving £37,000 to the city for the establishment of free libraries, and now Mr. Edward Cox, of Cardean, has acquired and presented to the town the unique and valuable collection of the late Mr. A. C. Lamb, which numbers 10,000 articles, all illustrative of

Dundee's civic history, its progress, and its social development. The collection forms, in fact, a history in pictures, books, prints, pamphlets, and articles of *verts* of Dundee, and contains even the smallest tract illustrating some Dundee incident of the past. The gift will hereafter form part of the Dundee Public Library collections.

At a recent meeting of the Westbourne Literary and Debating Society, of Bournemouth, a most able and interesting paper was read by Mr. C. Riddle (Borough Librarian), on "The Public Library Movement in Bournemouth and District." Mr. Riddle dealt with his subject in a very instructive manner, and traced the history of the movement from its origin to its present flourishing condition. He compared the Bournemouth Library with similar institutions in other towns, and strongly supported the "open access" system adopted here, by means of which a borrower can inspect a book before taking it from the shelves, and was thereby assisted in his choice of a good work.

WARWICK has lost by the death, on December 1st, 1901, from pneumonia, of Mr. Tom Carter, a public librarian of decidedly original character. Mr. Carter was the son of a Forest of Dean miner, and was sent into the pit long before he reached his teens. He had practically no school education, but taught himself to read, and developed a consuming passion for books. He went to Warwick as an insurance agent, and soon, by his force of character and gifts as a speaker, acquired such local influence that he was returned to the School Board and the Town Council. A year ago he resigned his seat on the Council, in order to become public librarian. He found the library, says *The Athenæum*, in a heart-breaking state. Mr. Carter completely overhauled the collection of some 9,000 volumes, induced the committee to fill up gaps, and carefully studied the literary papers to discover the new books worth ordering. He constituted himself the literary adviser of the town. Mr. Carter taught himself French and Latin, and was seeking new worlds to conquer when his useful life was cut short at the age of forty.

The Public Library (Scotland) Act has been adopted by the Burgh of **Montrose**, by the casting vote of the provost. This is one of the numerous cases of adoption-by-Carnegie, of which so many are pending in Scotland.

**Paisley**, like Dundee, is one of those lucky towns in Scotland, blessed with many able and wealthy sons, who never, all through a prosperous career, forget their birthplaces or their old neighbours. It was intimated at a recent meeting of the Paisley Town Council that a letter had been received from Mr. James Coats, of Auchendrane, Ayrshire, and Pawtucket, Rhode Island, U.S.A., regarding the proposal for extending the accommodation at the Free Library and Museum. In the course of his letter Mr. Coats said that he had received a copy of the annual report of the Library and Museum Committee, and he begged to state that he would be responsible for the deficit of £5,500 which was required to be made up in connection with the proposed extensions. On the

motion of Bailie Nicolson it was agreed that the cordial thanks of the Council should be forwarded to Mr. Coats for his handsome gift.

THE **Willesden Green** Public Library has issued a neat "Leaflet No. 1." on "The Art of Biography," being extracts from speeches by Mr. Asquith and Lord Rosebery, with a list of "Some great books of biography and autobiography in the library."

AN appreciative notice, with portrait, of Mr. E. R. Norris Mathews, City Librarian, Bristol, appears in *The Western Counties Graphic* for October 12th, 1901.



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

IN the unfortunate absence of the official Record, a cause of much complaint among members of the Association, we have obtained the following items of news from various sources. The monthly meetings will be revived in January. The office of Honorary Secretary has been filled by the appointment of Mr. B. H. Soulsby, Printed Book Department, British Museum. An Assistant Secretary has been appointed in the person of Mrs. Reilly. The vacancies on the Council caused by the resignations of Messrs. Borrajo, Jones and Quinn have been filled by the election of Messrs. Franklin T. Barrett, Fulham Public Libraries; E. W. Hulme, Patent Office Library; and Mr. Rees, Public Library, Westminster.

### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday evening, December 4th, when Mr. C. Whitwell (West Ham) read a paper entitled "Notes on Juvenile Literature of the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries."

### NORTHERN COUNTIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE success which has attended the efforts of the Executive Committee of the N.C.L.A. during their first year of office has been remarkable. All the larger libraries in the five northern counties are affiliated; in fact, there are few libraries which have not as yet responded to the invitation. The latest additions to membership are Durham University Library, represented by the librarian, E. U. Stocks, Esq., M.A., Cleator Moor; Mr. W. Leek, H.M. Inspector of Mines, Chairman, P.L. Committee; and Arlecdon and Frizington, Mr. Jones, Secretary, Library Committee.

A meeting was held on December 18th, 1901, at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, when papers were read by Mr. R. T. Richardson, on the "History of Printing"; Mr. R. Hill, "On Open Access"; Mr. Keogh, "On English and American Libraries"; and Mr. Purves, on "The Library Income and the Library Rate." We have received a reprint of a paper on "The Education of the Public in Library Work," by Mr. Arch. Macdonald, Librarian, Dumbarton, read before this Association in June last.

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#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE usual monthly meeting of this club was held on the usual day, at the usual place and hour, when Sir John Falstaff took two chairs, and opened a discussion upon "Library Indicators and other Charging Systems." He suggested that to ensure perfect fairness, the debate should be conducted like a tournament under N. S. C. rules, and that the Indicator men should assail that device, while the Anti-Indicator champions should defend it. In this way, he thought the best and fairest exposition of the subject would be obtained. It was resolved to adopt the course suggested, and Sir John proceeded with his remarks. Personally, he said, he objected to every form of Indicator or other device which in the remotest degree suggested limitation of any kind. He instanced the graduated drinking glasses used in Paris, and liquid measures generally, as a type of indicator to be abhorred by every liberal-minded-and-throated man. On the other hand, he thought card, and other *charging* systems, most pernicious, as tending to check the unlimited flow of all kinds of matters which ought to gravitate naturally to situations in which they were well-calculated to allay natural thirsts of various kinds. [Aside—"No, garçon, I did *not* call for a drink, but you may fill up as you've got the bottle handy."] He declared the subject open for discussion and called upon Tartarin of Tarascon to begin the defence of Indicators.

TARTARIN—The Indicator is a noble invention, a veritable gift of the Gods!—

VALENTINE VOX (interrupting)—We paid sweetly for ours, my genial Turk!

FALSTAFF—Order! Order!

TARTARIN—Poof! I regard not such interjections. I venerate the Indicator as a shield from behind which a true sportsman can shoot those ravenous lions—the General Public—with safety and despatch. When a librarian is caught, or found out, by a ravenous lion, what is his duty?

PADDY FINN—To resign, or make a bolt for it.

TARTARIN—No, my Irish friend, it is not. His clear duty is to seek safe cover from which to reconnoitre the enemy, and, if possible, to overwhelm him by some subtle stratagem. He may, for example, being safely ensconced behind his mighty rampart, suddenly thrust forth his head and shout Boo! or Sst! or Vat-ho! in a furious manner and so intimidate the foe. Or, better still



under cover of the tricolour Indicator—that oriflamme which is the rallying point for all weak and timid librarians—the sportsman—librarian may shoot his quarry with an ordinance. There are many such ordinances in Public Libraries which prove fatal to the British Lion. There is the Pom-pom ordinance—“Please wash your hands,” or the other extreme, “Please wipe your feet.” Then the crushing one “Silence is requested,” that most valuable retort to inconvenient questions. But above all, the magnificent regulation which saves all trouble and spares the librarian the burden of thought—“WHEN A NUMBER IS VISIBLE UPON A BLUE GROUND THE BOOK IS IN, WHEN VISIBLE UPON A RED GROUND, IT IS OUT.” What other system, my brothers, offers such a refuge for absence of mind, carelessness and ignorance?

SARTOR RESARTUS—I quite agree with my méridional-simian young friend whose heart-searching instinct prompts him to seek safety in any form of effective buckler which will shield him from the phantom-giants of his own natural fears. An Indicator is even better than a block-house or fortress, in guarding delicately-nurtured librarians from the assaults of the idiot-headed mob of fools who storm the universities of the people in search of profane, instead of philosophical pabulum. A fort may be carried by direct assault, or even undermined, but an Indicator is inviolable, partly because it is screwed to the counter, and also because to shake it might break the glass! Further, it is public property, hedged round with abundant rules and regulations of adamant, so that readers are compelled to respect its decisions and bow to its tyranny. An Indicator is, therefore, a symbol of POWER, and thus represents a conglomerate HERO, materialised from scheming brain to iron-wood-glass shape.

FALSTAFF—Enough in defence of Indicators! Now the other side. Robinson Crusoe, speak up.

ROBINSON CRUSOE—When I am at sea——

GIL BLAS—Ha! ha! ha!

ROBINSON CRUSOE—What’s the matter?

GIL BLAS—Why, you are never anywhere else!

FALSTAFF—Order! order!

ROBINSON CRUSOE—I need scarcely assure gentlemen that I’ve often been “on the rocks,” so that my picaroon friend’s statement is wide of the mark. I repeat, when I am at sea, what I principally rejoice in is the feeling of unbounded freedom induced by the prospect of unlimited expanses of sea and sky, and the relief to my mind in the thought that, to a large degree, I am free from the numerous dry-land restrictions and conventions which make the life of the counter-jumper one endless round of petty worries. In no department of public life is this kind of thing more noticeable than in the average conventional Public Library. You enter a swing-door, and are immediately confronted by a huge rampart, well described by Tartarin as an oriflamme, which shuts off the entire library, and conveys a menace of inhospitality, which should be the very last aspect a public institution should wear. Then the thing is a fraud. It represents *numbers*, and not

books, and conveys no more idea of literature to its beholder than the gorgeously exaggerated pictures which screen the walls of a travelling menagerie represent the beasts to be found inside. Distrust is written on every feature of this device, because, if one part looks blue at the idea of being used by the public, the other blushes fiery red with indignation because it has been used! I object to any contrivance, however ingenious it may be, which cuts off the people from the true enjoyment of their own property, and to my mind a library can no more be enjoyed in a distant prospect of its books, than a garden can be appreciated when viewed through iron railings, or a chink in a wall.

NICK OF THE WOODS—We are informed by apologists for the Indicator that it must not be used alone, in case it produces blood-poisoning or brain fever. The genuine method is to procure a "properly compiled" catalogue (we are not told where this *magnum opus* is to be found, nor what its ransom may be), take it home, put your feet in hot water and mustard, tie a wet towel round your head, or wherever else your brains may be, and study this work of art for hours at a stretch. Having ascertained, after six weeks' hard labour, that the library does not contain anything to interest you, you proceed to the lending department to ask for it. Enter softly, and do not look at the Indicator for fear of hurting its feelings, buttonhole an assistant (or catch by a button if a lady), and make a *sotto voce* request for what you don't want, taking care the Indicator does not overhear you. You will then be requested to step into the reference library, where arrangements have been made to deal with cases like yours. Arrived there, you are confronted by an official, who, on learning your business, hands you a ream of application forms, with the request that you fill up these for the lending department books you don't want, stating briefly your age, nationality, occupation of your grandfather if alive (if dead state where buried and the material of his tombstone), your annual salary, the name of your *fiancée* if unmarried, and how often you have deceived the Income-tax collector. To this declaration, which must be written on all the slips, you add your name, address, date, present occupation, and state of your finances, hand them to the official, and wait. Meanwhile, the room fills with other lending library borrowers seeking the privilege of examining the books they don't want, but think they do. Time goes on; your dinner hour passes away, tea-time arrives, and at last ten of your slips are returned, marked "Out." You rush from the library, hail a cab, get home, hasten to your room, plunge your feet into water and your head into a towel, and resume the "quiet study of your catalogue at home," admiring all the wonderful adaptability and resourcefulness of a system which can completely out-manceuvre open access, or any other method of meeting public needs, by means of a blind catalogue, a deaf and dumb indicator, and a ream of lame application forms.

[At this point it was necessary to telephone for an ambulance waggon, as the Chairman, overcome by the heat of the room, felt somewhat faint. The members passed a resolution adjourning the discussion to a future occasion.]

## EDITORIAL.

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**Pocket-book Classics.**

SOME time ago, a writer in these columns entered a plea for a series of reprints of notable books which had been allowed to drop entirely out of print, and certain lists of such works were printed. So far nothing seems to have come of this useful suggestion, and no publisher has had the enterprise to experiment with a few issues on the lines laid down. Instead, every British publisher is engaged in the old, old game of reprinting edition after edition of the same old classics, and venturing no further than the limits of this or that hundred "best books." The result is that we find publishers tumbling over each other in their eagerness to produce editions of the same hackneyed classics, each slightly different from its fellow in some trifle of price, shape, size, binding or editorial annotation. The book-shops are filled with these rival reprints, and gradually, because of a craze for over-daintiness, their stocks are beginning to look more and more like those of the stationers who deal largely in pocket-books and diaries. Dainty little editions of Shakespeare, Scott, Dickens, Bunyan, and similar chestnuts, abound in every variety of limp leather and gilt-edged prettiness, and all of them are warranted to survive about half-a-dozen readings before their dainty beauty fades, and they are ready for the waste-paper basket. The leading idea of most of the publishers of these delicate editions seems to be that books are no longer intended to be kept on shelves, but should be carried about like watches or toothpicks. Waistcoat-pocket dictionaries, fountain-pen-pocket editions of "Don Quixote," and breeches-pocket editions of the London Directory are all the rage, and people are urged to buy this or that dainty classic with binding designed by Blank, R.A., not because it is a good serviceable edition of a great literary classic, but because it forms such a pretty ornament for the pocket. The sixpenny reprint has been done to death, and now the shilling and two-shilling net edition of the book possessed by everybody is beginning to go the same way. The literature of England is one of its chief treasures, and we are never weary of boasting of its power, extent, and variety. And our leading publishers, to prove the truth of the boast, keep on multiplying the same limited selection of books in the same way, while hundreds, equally good, are neglected. It never seems to occur to the diligent publishers who issue their trumpery little editions of Shakespeare, printed on thin paper, bound in limp leather, and edited to death by some learned scholar, whose notes smother the original text, that the masterpieces of some other author would come as an absolute novelty, and be hailed as a relief from the never-ending stock classic. Public Libraries and students of literature are compelled to buy at a great comparative cost such of the older, out-of-print books as they may desire to possess, while in many cases they are unable to

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procure certain rare works at all. The dainty, gilt-edged pocket classics are absolutely useless for general library purposes, and in many cases, owing to their extreme thinness, odd size, limpness, rounded corners, and general lack of stability, they cannot even be stored when read, save in special receptacles.

We, therefore, urge upon publishers the necessity of going wider afield in their quest for neglected classics worth reprinting, and to consider the advantage it would be if such reprints were issued in a form which would give some promise of longevity. Daintiness and beauty in book production are to be commended, whether applied to first editions or reprints, but these qualities become dangerous when misapplied in the diletante, finicking, ephemeral manner which is now the fashion. Boudoir books are suitable enough in this over-refined form when they are works on whist, or cosmetics, or bridge, or ping-pong, but Bunyan, Shakespeare, Goethe, Brontë, Carlyle and other authors require more robust treatment. Books intended for *reading* should be made of materials which will enable them to hang together as long as they are clean. After that, their fate matters not, as a dirty book is an abomination, though of an honourable sort, as bearing witness to useful service, and, perhaps, the alleviation of mental worry. Comparatively few small books survive, no matter how they are produced, and it is quite evident that, when weakness and delicacy of manufacture are added to diminutive size, there will be a very short future in store for the ephemeral booklets of the present day.



## BOOK ANNOTATION IN AMERICA.

By ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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### I.

#### FREE TRADE OR PROTECTION ?

AN article by Professor Ely in the *Library Journal* for last August, which was quoted freely in the November *Library World* (page 122, &c.), constitutes a rather damaging attack upon the principles of annotation and appraisal that have been adopted by many American librarians and authors of readers' guides. In stringing together some observations on the work of these "Trustees of Literature," I cannot do better, indeed I can hardly do other, than start from the article and enquire how far its contentions are sound. Prof. Ely bases his indictment on first principles. He not merely criticises the work of Mr. George Iles and his coadjutors; he pronounces their aims to be fundamentally wrong. Consequently, if Prof. Ely's judgment is correct, we may as well spare our energies for some more profitable employment; but if his conclusions turn out to be largely exaggerated, it would be a pity for anyone to take the article as an excuse for doing nothing

The whole question may be regarded from two widely different points of view, the author's, and the reader's. As librarians, as ministers to innumerable bodies of readers who desire to know what are the best books, we have been accustomed to regard the reader's interest as paramount. Prof. Ely, however, concentrating attention on the injury that may conceivably be done to authorship, finds it convenient to ignore or belittle the practical necessities which guide-books to books are intended to meet. The schemes admirably outlined by Mr. George Iles for the collaboration of librarians, professors at the universities, and literary men, in the production of annotated guides, he describes as an attempt to establish a Judicature of Letters. Have we, he asks, a judicial body of men from whom such estimates are to proceed? "Is it in the nature of things possible that we should have such a body?" To these questions he answers, emphatically, no. Therefore such estimates as can be obtained will be nothing better than the evaluations of current periodicals, crystallised into permanent shapes, reproducing the personal animus, the onesidedness, and the lack of judgment that vitiate journalistic criticism. And the result will be, he thinks, to form what Bagehot called a "crust," hindering the free development of science and literature. It is a dangerous attack upon liberty, he asseverates, the liberty of thought and expression, which has been won after a long and arduous struggle. This is a fair synopsis of a very interesting article, which at least has the merit of stimulating thought.

When a professor of economics has delivered his views on Free Trade in Literature, it may seem audacious for a layman to offer any criticism. But librarians are prone to hold opinions about matters relevant to the insides of books, in spite of weighty professional authorities who are opposed to their knowing anything beyond the cover and the title-page, or at all events, the table of contents, and other things strictly bibliographical. And whosoever is alarmed by such prognostications as to the calamities sure to ensue from any effort in the direction of a Judicature of Letters, may pluck up heart at a moment when the newspapers are welcoming the proposal to institute an English Academy of Learning. Those of us who have not seen Bagehot's theory of the crust, are familiar enough with Matthew Arnold's famous essay on Academies. That eminent apostle of literature and culture was far from rejoicing so unreservedly as Prof. Ely in the liberty of public expression that belongs to the Anglo-Saxon race. He believed that the guiding influence of a central body of censors would probably be wholesome, it might extinguish the crank literature alluded to by Prof. Ely with such good-humoured tolerance, and, while perhaps affecting the greatest men hardly at all, it would tend to raise the level of the "journeyman work," which, this great critic pointed out, was much lower in England than in Germany or France.

If complete Free Trade ought to rule in the literary world, then every form of preferential selection, at least every official form, ought to be abolished forthwith. Let me take an instance. The successful production of school books is exceptionally lucrative. It is notorious

that colleges, universities, and the highest educational authorities in the land are accustomed to decree that certain works shall be adopted in the schools under their control. Such decrees endow individuals with highly profitable monopolies, to the great detriment and discouragement of their competitors. Yet, would any reasonable person plead for the unsuccessful authors and demand Free Trade? Certainly not; the claims of the learners are felt to be infinitely more important than any others. Looking at the matter more broadly, we may well urge that the public should be protected rather than the producer, unless they are to be overwhelmed with inferior articles in the interests of Free Trade.

But does not such protective selection discourage originality? Perhaps it does to some extent, but the originality so repressed can hardly be originality of high order, which is well able to take care of itself. Has any author of genius ever been suppressed by the most powerfully armed Academy in existence? Was Voltaire silenced, or did Alphonse Daudet or Zola lose a tittle of popularity and influence through the coldness or the hostility of the Academy of Belles Lettres? Were certain world-famed English painters much the worse for being the rejected of the Royal Academy of Arts? There we have Academies on their worst side, the side that all regard with some measure of distrust, and such fears seem after all to be a little exaggerated.

However, I am departing a long way from the question in which librarians are immediately interested, namely, on what principles our guide books should be constructed; for the quotations that were introduced in the November number are not strictly relevant to the discussion. What Mr. Iles and his colleagues are striving to do is not to set up a tribunal of literature, but to offer guidance to readers among the bewildering multitudes of good, bad, and indifferent books. Prof. Ely has little to say on behalf of the uninstructed and sorely perplexed reader, but that is the all-important matter. The primary object of literature is not the author, neither his need to live, nor even his need for self-expression. Literature is a means of influencing other minds, and were this even but a secondary effect, it would behove all who are responsible for the education and cultivation of the community to do everything in their power to bring the good and useful books to the public, and to keep away the bad. It is perhaps unfortunate that so much stress has been laid on the words "appraisal" and "evaluation," as if they were to be the watchwords of the movement, instead of representing only means to the true end, which is instruction. In my opinion it would be well to keep this process of evaluation or appraisal subordinate to the work of drawing up guide-books and courses of reading, but, as I hope to show, it cannot be dispensed with as a vital part of the work.

And I venture to say it is altogether unfair to compare the annotations of these guide-books with the faulty estimates that are the average in periodical reviews. There are numerous safeguards against the besetting defects of criticisms written at and for the moment. The best works of this class are produced by collaboration; and, though

any single note may be written by an individual, all the collaborators must be under the control of the common judgment, there is no room for personal likes and dislikes. Moreover, the act of settling a book's place in a general scheme is very different from the act of reviewing a single new book, since it necessarily involves careful comparison of all the works dealing with the same subject. Again, the criticism is not anonymous, which is a factor of considerable importance. Finally, the objection that reviews are often written by inferior men is hardly pertinent. The American guides have been written by authorities of weight, and the forthcoming Bibliography of American History, of which I have been privileged to see some portion in proof, is the work of recognised historians and professors. If such men are not capable of divesting themselves of party feeling, and recognising a book of marked originality, even though they cannot accept its teaching, they are hardly to be trusted to appraise the work of the undergraduates whom they examine.

This is the ideal sketched by Mr. Iles in the paper replied to by Professor Ely. It is the ideal to which all our guide-books should aim, and so far as it is realised, so far as the work is accepted as well done and the judgments commend themselves to the good sense of the public, so far will some of the uses of a Judicature of Letters be attained. It is conceivable that the work might lead in time to the growth of an authoritative body of critics and advisers, but that would be the result of a natural process, and its very success would prove it to be for the benefit of authors as well as readers.

*(To be continued.)*



## THERAPEUTIC LITERATURE.

By JAMES DUFF BROWN, *Librarian, Finsbury Public Libraries.*

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VARIOUS non-medicinal arts—particularly music and optics—have been at different times laid under contribution for the cure of diseases, and it has occurred to me that there may be similar possibilities in connection with the literary art which are worth exploiting. If a little enquiry can demonstrate the practicability of applying reading to the cure or alleviation of distempers, then Public Libraries will become curative centres of vast importance, and librarians will have seriously to study the pharmacology of books as well as their moral tendency.

It seems to me, after a little preliminary study of this interesting question, that therapeutic books naturally divide themselves into four main classes, as follows:—

1. Books which may be used as agents for the cure of specific mental disturbances, such as, for example, those which induce the

condition known as the "Hump," or by such fanciful and pet names as the "Pip," the "Blues," or the "Sulks."

2. Books which have a curative value in cases of general physical debility, sometimes aptly indicated by such expressive phrases as "Out of sorts," "Run down," "Seedy," the "Horrors," &c.

3. Books which possess valuable therapeutic properties in cases of specific maladies like toothache, corns, water-brash, or flatulence.

4. Books which can be used as anodynes or stimulants for particular mental or psychological conditions.

I shall deal with the fourth class first, as it enables me to get quit of the huge mass of literature which ministers most effectually to the relief of that fell disease of modern life,

#### INSOMNIA.

For this troublesome complaint the foresight and wit of the ages have provided a tremendous battery of effective soporific books. Since literature first emerged from the baked brick stage and assumed its present state of development as an art devoted to the spread of great thoughts and fine language over certain areas of discarded linen, authors have rivalled each other in the philanthropic work of producing endless masses of sleep-compelling literature. Practically the whole field occupied by the subjects of Philosophy, Theology and Social Science, comes naturally into the great class of Soporifica. Sermons of all kinds, for example, are admirable remedies for sleeplessness, and the older and riper they are, the better. The works of the Fathers are also valuable, especially if read in their original languages. The philosophical works of Plato, Aristotle, Hegel, Kant, A. J. Balfour, Joseph Parker, and the author of "The Whole Duty of Man," have also great virtues as sleep producers. So also have the works of most of the theologians of the "Hell-fire and brimstone" school, described by the late Cotter Morison in his "Service of Man." There can hardly be a doubt that the reason for the prevailing sleekness of the average clergyman, is due to the existence of such an enormous body of reposeful professional literature, and not to the material fatness of livings; a view which has been erroneously held by the vulgar from monkish times to the present day.

But sleep-compelling literature is not necessarily confined to Theology or Philosophy. Some of the very best narcotics are furnished in the lists of "Best Books" compiled by Lord Avebury and other professional "tasters." A list of "Best Books" is generally one which its compiler recommends to *other* people for their improvement in mind, morals and manners. As a matter of individual preference, the compiler would no doubt rather keep awake over "Ouida" than slumber with Marcus Aurelius; and for this reason a specially selected list of literary classics is more than likely to contain a large percentage of soporifics. Here are a few which can be safely recommended:—



Plutarch's Lives. [This book is generally described in this manner, and raises a question in the ordinary lay mind as to who Plutarch was, and how many lives he had.]  
 Gibbon's "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire." [Or is it "Rooshian Empire"? Our authority, the late Mr. Dickens, leaves this point in a condition of ambiguous obscurity.]  
 Milton's "Paradise Lost."  
 Cervantes' "Don Quixote."  
 Shakespeare's Dramatic Works.  
 Browning's "Poetical Works."  
 Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress."  
 The "Encyclopædia Britannica," ninth edition. [It is important to use the ninth edition, as some of the earlier editions are really interesting. But, of course, they have never been efficiently advertised.]

This list could be extended indefinitely to include novels like "Robert Elsmere," "The Eternal City," "The Count of Monte Cristo" [after the escape from prison], "Endymion," "The Master Christian," "Jane Eyre," and, in short, effective examples from all other classes of literature, if the space at command were unlimited and the game worth the candle. Generally speaking, the "best books," those masterpieces of literature which expert authorities tell us we must read, but which we carefully avoid, are precisely those which are most useful in obstinate cases of insomnia. Before quitting this branch of the inquiry it may be useful to point out that dictionaries of foreign languages are important additions to the lists above given. There is a kind of morbid fascination in the mere act of turning up words in an English-Greek dictionary, for example, to see how they *look*, which, acting through the visual nerves, produces an overwhelming langour invariably resulting in sleep.

Other divisions of Class 4 are books suitable for particular occasions, when the mind requires diversion or a soothing nepenthe. Disappointments in Love, Domestic Bereavements, Scolding Wives, Quarrels with ancient friends, Financial embarrassments, Betting losses, Defeats at Parliamentary or municipal elections, Disputes with cab-drivers or tradesmen, Unfortunate law-suits, Summonses to juries, or for keeping savage dogs, and, in fact, every possible kind of human care or worry, has its specific cure in the shape of a particular book. It may be taken as a fact requiring no special proof, that books written for the express purpose of bringing comfort or consolation to the bereaved, are just the very ones which never achieve that end. Instead, it is only too probable that they will act as drastic irritants. "Words of Comfort for the Sick and Sorrowful" is the title of an ambitious attempt at a soothing literary cordial, but its actual effect is to turn sorrow into insanity. For the religiously-minded there is no better anodyne under affliction than Thomas á Kempis' "Imitatione"; while less devout minds will find an effective nepenthe in the "Pink 'un," Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy," or Tupper's "Proverbial Philosophy." Disappointed lovers sometimes find a cure in Hervey's

"Meditations among the Tombs"; but my own opinion is that a course of the more realistic of Dean Swift's poems will prove much more effectual. The frivolous may suggest that the best remedy for financial embarrassments is to read works like "A New Way to Pay Old Debts," but a much more energetic and powerful literary medicine will be found in large doses of "Ready Reckoner," taken at bedtime. Space will not allow this branch of the inquiry to be pursued further, nor is it necessary, as anyone with these suggestions can construct a literary pharmacopœia to meet every emergency.

Returning now to Class No. 1, it may be at once stated that it is a vulgar error to assume that books written by professional humorists—Mark Twain, Max Adeler, Jerome, or Marie Corelli—are the best remedies for the "Hump." On the contrary, long experience and observation have convinced me that this unfortunate condition can only be alleviated by having recourse to the unconscious humorists, of whom English—and indeed all—literature, furnishes numerous examples. Counter-irritants are often prescribed by doctors for certain acute diseases—as, for example, the application of mustard blisters to the bare feet of a patient suffering from the effects of an overdose of alcohol, to prevent her or him from readily falling a victim to another exposure in an infected area—and a similar class of remedy may be exhibited for a fit of the blues, or its weaker companion, the pip. An unconscious humorist is one who appears funny to other people, without being aware of the fact. [*This definition is copyright.*] A prominent example of this kind of humorist, or Hump-reliever, is an Anglo-Indian named Kipling, who, under cover of a serious treatise on the sanitary condition of the British soldier in the cantonments of India, has produced a series of genuine cures for the blues, which are only equalled by a topographical work referring to the explorations of one Gulliver, written by an Irish dignitary of the Church of England, now deceased. There are other serious biographical, historical and topographical works which afford excellent cures for the ailments of Classes 1 and 2, and, being written by unconscious humorists, have the virtue of spontaneity, which is lacking in the writings of professional funny men. Among such works may be named the memoir of the late Mr. Tristram Shandy, who was born under extraordinary circumstances; the Life of Mansie Waugh, a tailor of Dalkeith; the Expedition of Humphrey Clinker, the pioneer of the personally-conducted tour in Scotland; the History of Sandford and Merton, two boys who asked awkward questions; and the biography of Sartor Resartus, a German philosophic tailor, who patched other people's clothes, unmindful of the rents in his own garments. These are all excellent cures for the Blues, or mental and physical seediness, and can be recommended to act when mere vulgar chemical pick-me-ups fail.

Class 3 is a very important one, because it provides remedies for the more intimate ills of life, with which all members of the human family are more or less vexed and afflicted. Messrs. Birrell and Walkley have suggested a list of books which may be profitably read under the inflection of influenza, but unfortunately they neglect to specify which of

them possess therapeutic virtues. It is all very well to mention Charles Lamb's Essays as a pastime-book for an influenza invalid, but a more important consideration is—Will it effect a cure? Personally, I am of opinion that "Obiter Dicta" is an excellent cure for a cold in the head; although an esteemed friend has suggested that Hansard's "Parliamentary Debates" from 1870 to 1901, read *in bed* (this is important) is even more effective. Small-pox is an awkward disease to treat successfully by means of therapeutic literature, but it is quite certain that, if a patient succeeds in reading through Baring-Gould's "Lives of the Saints," he will be out of danger before he reaches December 31st in the calendar. Only a catalogue could show clearly the cures which books can effect in certain diseases, and it is hardly necessary to set out in detail the enormous possibilities of therapeutic literature. With one or two examples of a practical kind, this series of suggestions may be closed, recommending them to the careful attention of the medical faculty for improvement and application. If a good book once seizes the attention of a reader, it is possible that he will find in it a sovereign remedy for all the ills that flesh is heir to.

For toothache there is only one effective cure. This is a dose of "Pickwick," taken as follows:—

Procure a small-type edition of the "Pickwick Papers," a large tumbler of hot and strong whisky and water, a comfortable armchair, and carefully assimilate these ingredients before a bright fire. The patient will probably be quite oblivious of his toothache before Mr. Pickwick gets as far as Rochester. This is a certain cure.

A suitable book for corns is difficult to recommend. After all, a corn only hurts when one is walking, and it is really not a disease, but what Mr. Gomme, of the London County Council, would call an "administrative inconvenience." It forms no part of the body politic, but interferes materially with its machinery. But even in this case literature provides an anodyne. The patient must purchase for 1d. or 2d. a small white, blue, or other coloured card, usually sold by omnibus and tramway conductors. The literature printed upon this is somewhat curt, and indeed scanty, but read under the proper conditions it will give almost immediate relief from the painful burden of corns.

I must reserve for a future article the best therapeutic books for Gout, Measles, Scurvy, Offensive breath, In-growing nails, Gunshot wounds, and Indigestion. It should be pointed out, however, that one eminent medical authority has announced that "A Pinch of Salt" is the cause of cancer, while another equally eminent authority recommends "Monsieur Violet" for its cure. Readers will at once perceive how important the subject of the curative power of literature must become, if investigated in a scientific spirit by capable inquirers. Literature may indeed be elevated into a powerful ally of Medicine, but of course care and knowledge will have to be exercised in its application.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS.

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**D**URING 1900-01 **Shrewsbury** Free Public Library had a total issue from the lending department of 38,107 volumes, a daily average of 140. These figures represent increases over the previous year's totals of 2,339 volumes and 10 respectively. The Report tells us of a somewhat superfluous stock-taking—no books were found missing—that necessitated the closing of the libraries for a whole month. There is no information as to the issues from the reference department, additions to stock, or the extent of the stock in either department.

The Southwark Library authority is publishing a **Chronicle**, which will serve equally well for all the libraries under their control. The first number contains an instalment of a serial list of additions to the lending departments, a list of some additions to the reference departments, a topical list on Alfred the Great, and some notes.

The total stock of the **Gloucester** Public Library is now 12,410 volumes, of which 6,893 are in the lending department and 5,517 in the reference. During 1900-01 the issue in the lending library reached the highly satisfactory total of 105,734 volumes—a daily average of 396. In the reference library, however, the issue statistics are exceedingly poor, being only 1,385 volumes for the year, or a daily average of 4. But the near future will probably see a vast difference. In referring to the Plymouth Conference of the Library Association the papers dealing with the reference library and cataloguing are specified as being "particularly useful." And, the Report goes on,

Plans are under consideration for making our own reference department of more use to students and the public by arranging certain of the books in the Raikes' Reading-room and giving access to them, and it is hoped that early in the coming year they will be thoroughly discussed by the committee.

Thus, we take it, means "open" access, and in view of the statistics in the lending library, which is worked on the open access system, we do not anticipate any discussion whatever. When the proposed change takes place Gloucester will doubtless prove a fruitful study in the evolution of reference library statistics.

The relations that *should* exist between the Public Library and technical education authorities are already obvious; they rest on the basis that all technical literature should be under the care and control of the library authority. A step has been taken in the right direction at **Brentford**, where the Middlesex County Council has presented to the reference department of the Public Library about eighty works on art, science, and technology. These works have been catalogued in classified form in the 1901-02 programme of classes now in progress in the district. The collection is a fairly good one, but the catalogue is not so full as could be desired for students.

According to the latest Report, the stock of **St. Helens** Free Public Libraries (central lending and reference departments, and three branches) totalled 33,284 volumes at March 31st, 1901. The total issue for the year was 170,637 volumes, to which figure the central lending contributed 126,878, the reference 7,483, and the branches 36,276. The total daily average for all the libraries amounted to 558.6; the average Sunday issue from the reference department was 4. The previous year's combined issue from all libraries amounted to 177,054 volumes, or 6,417 *more* than the year under consideration.

**Workington** Public Library Report for 1900-01 is a record of progress under untoward conditions. The shelves are literally chock-a-block, and, owing to lack of room, the Patent Office publications "cannot be made available for public use." The fact that "the committee will be forced to refrain from purchasing any new books during the coming year, no matter upon what terms they are offered," shows what a critical condition this institution is in. The total number of volumes now in the library is 7,638, while the year's issue amounted to 47,277, an increase of 4,739 on the previous year's total of 42,538.

The 1900-01 Report of the **Finsbury** Public Libraries informs us that although the population of the district has decreased there has been no decrease in the operations of the library. Indeed, it is much better than that; there has been substantial progress. The total issue was 116,295 volumes, comprising 11,605 on week-days and 444 on Sundays from the reference department, 99,534 from the lending, and 4,712 from the branch. This works out at a daily average, excluding Sunday issues, of 380, as against 360 in 1899-1900. The juvenile room is a speciality at Clerkenwell, and it is a matter for congratulation to find it so successfully patronised. The total issue to children, exclusive of books on the open shelves for use in the room, was 11,174 volumes. The Sunday issues, however, show a decrease. In 1899-1900 the readers averaged 122 per Sunday, while the issue of books was 21, but for the year under consideration the daily average attendance was 98, and the issue of books 11. Until a year ago the Clerkenwell reference library was almost wholly closed. On the new system we quote the following interesting note:—

The success of the open-shelf department of the reference library, which was established in June, 1900, is an ample justification of the plan of allowing readers to select books for purposes of consultation without the trouble of filling up application forms. Nearly 1,000 books in every department of science, art, history, biography, technology, &c., are placed on open shelves, and to these any reader who has been admitted to the open reference library enclosure may help himself without hindrance. This privilege has been largely taken advantage of by students and others, with the result that many more books are now consulted than under the old arrangement.

It has also been found that owing to the continued popularity of the news and the magazine rooms the accommodation is quite inadequate.

We have also received the following magazines, of which previous numbers were noticed recently in these columns :—*Manchester Public Free Libraries Quarterly Record*, v. 5, no. 2 ; *Nottingham Library Bulletin*, November, 1901 ; and *Willesden Green Public Library Quarterly Record*, October, 1901. Also the "Report of the Trustees of the Public Library, Museums, and National Gallery of Victoria, 1900."

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**Library of Congress. Division of Bibliography. Griffin, A. P. C.**

(*Ed.*) A List of Books (with References to Periodicals) on Porto Rico. 55 pp. **Griffin, A. P. C.** (*Ed.*) A List of Books (with References to Periodicals) on the Danish West Indies. 18 pp. Q. 1901. Washington: Government Printing Offices.

These are eminently valuable contributions to bibliography, and though, as the editor states, no effort was made to go beyond the resources of the Library of Congress, yet they may be said to be almost as complete as they could be on their respective subjects. The Porto Rican List embodies a considerable collection of native literature gathered by Dr. Friedenwald when he visited the island in 1898, as well as Porto Rican administrative documents, reports of local organisations, &c. The other bibliography concludes with a list of articles in Danish Government Publications, 1868-70, relative to the negotiations to sell the Danish West Indies to the United States.

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**Guildford & Working Men's Institute.** New Catalogue of the Library. Revised and re-compiled by J. A. Martin, Hon. Sec., and F. H. Elsley, Librarian. September, 1901. 16 + 284 pp. 1s.

This is a classified catalogue with at least one pleasing feature not generally to be met with in such a catalogue—each of the twelve broad classes into which it is divided is headed with an apt quotation from some celebrated author. This is an ingenious contrivance, for the reader who has been disappointed, either with a book or because he cannot get it when he wants it, turns to the beginning of the section, reads the quotation, and feeling much refreshed thereby, pursues still further his quest for knowledge of that particular subject. In style the catalogue is what is generally termed a title-a-liner and appears to have been compiled on the principle of one work one entry. Title-entries are the rule except in fiction where author-entries prevail. The defects are few and slight ; the slightest, indeed being the most obvious and the most irritating. Works where the title has not been inverted are invariably entered under the first word, which produces the following disagreeable arrangement :—

Testimony of the Rocks  
The Day after Death.  
The Eyesight, and how to take care of it.

In one or two cases also the classification is weak. Instance: Timbs' "Romance of London," and Dickens' "Pictures from Italy and American Notes," instead of being in Fiction, should be in History and Travel respectively. The list of anonymous works would have been considerably reduced had a brief consultation of Halkett and Laing's "Dictionary" been made. But, it need hardly be added, these blemishes will not materially lessen the value of the catalogue as a key to the books in the library. It is neatly printed, and compact in size so as to easily be carried in the pocket. In a future edition, however, we should like to see added a brief author-index: it would render it infinitely more serviceable.

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**Northern Counties Library Association.** First Annual Report (1900-01) of the Executive Committee. 12 pp. 1901.

Formed just in the nick of time to enable it in the distant future to call itself a product of nineteenth century progress, the N.C.L.A. has now completed, with what we assume must be satisfaction and congratulations all round, the first year of its existence. Fifty-one members, representing thirty-seven libraries, have already been enrolled, and the following is the list of very practical papers and subjects read and discussed:—

- (1) The Darlington Press and Local Libraries. By Mr. W. J. Arrowsmith, Darlington.
- (2) Continuity in Staff and in Work. By Mr. Basil Anderton, B.A., Newcastle.
- (3) Evolution of a Charging System. By Mr. Baker Hudson, Middlesbrough.
- (4) The Public Library: Some Special Features of the Work. By Mr. B. R. Hill, Sunderland.
- (5) The Fiction and Juvenile Sections of a Public Library. By Mr. C. R. Wright, Accrington.
- (6) The Education of the Public in Library Work. By Mr. Archibald Macdonald, Dumbarton.

Practicality, indeed, is the outstanding feature in the above list, which may be looked upon as being an excellent commentary on the following resolution to the Council of the Library Association:—

That the N.C.L.A. respectfully urge upon the Council the desirability of every facility and ample time being given for the reading and discussion of papers on practical librarianship, and suggest that such papers take precedence over those of literary or topographical interest.

It does one's heart good to think that a professional body like the N.C.L.A., containing as it does several members of the Council of the Library Association itself, has had courage to re-echo the somewhat thorn-in-the-flesh sentiment already expressed in this journal. We can

only hope it will have some effect. This little report, as really interesting as it is unpretentious, also contains some indication that the "problem" of raising the status and standard of education of assistants is being considered. The following should prove inspiring news, not only to the assistants concerned, but also to the Library Assistants' Association:—

Resolved: That a prize to the value of two pounds be offered to assistants within the area of the N.C.L.A. for a paper on a practical subject, to be chosen by the Executive Committee. The paper to be read at a meeting of the Association, and the prize to be either books that would aid the assistant in his or her work, or be a contribution towards paying his or her expenses in attending the Summer School of the Library Association.

Financially the Association is sound enough, having a balance in hand of £2 5s. 11d., and we wish it long life and prosperity.

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**Fabian Society.** What to read on Social and Economic Subjects. 48 pp. 1901. *Fabian Tract, no. 29.* Fabian Society, 6d. net.

An interesting list on social and economic history and theory, political science and government, and various social and industrial problems. There are no annotations. Under Socialism, books by non- and anti-socialists are included, but we miss Mallock's "Aristocracy and Evolution." Is it considered not worthy of a place?

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**The Scientific Roll and Magazine of Systematized Notes**

Ed. Alexander Ramsay. Climate: Baric condition, 1688-1883. 525 pp. 1900. O'Driscoll, Lennox, 16s. od. Bacteria. V. I., nos. 1-3. Sharland, ea. 1s. od.

These publications represent an enormous amount of work, but somehow we doubt whether their value bears a sufficient ratio to the labour entailed. The splitting up of the bibliography by chunks of "systematized notes" is an arrangement which cannot be described as happy. Then again, one questions the value of bovrilising so very thoroughly the books and papers on the subject. If these abstracts do away with the necessity of reference to the originals, well and good, but while in this particular case we do not possess the knowledge requisite to decide, our experience of abstracts generally is that while excellent as aids to memory, they do not supersede in any way the originals. It is scarcely to be expected that they should. And the question is whether annotated bibliography would not be an improvement on the "systematized notes", which can never be as valuable to others as to the note-taker himself. The volume on the atmosphere, moreover, cries out for a full index—this key is lacking altogether.



**Chicago Library Club.** List of Serials in Public Libraries of Chicago and Evanston. 186 pp. 1901. Chicago.

A capital example of union work of which America is showing us so many admirable examples. We should like to see some of the vigorous District Associations of the Library Association doing some combined bibliographical work of this kind. There is an ocean of it to do. Which will be first to cover itself with glory, and shame the merent stem, which now, as always

Does nothing in particular,  
And does it very well.

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**Library of Congress, Divisions of Maps and Charts.** Phillips, P. L. List of Maps of America in the Library of Congress, preceded by a list of works relating to Cartography. 1138 pp. Washington.

A subject-chronological monograph of an exhaustive character, bound to be of great value to all students of cartography.

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**Dutch Life in Town and Country.** By P. M. Hough. x × 260 pp. *illust.* London: Newnes, Ltd. Price 3s. 6d. net.

This is another addition to the "Our Neighbours" series, of which we have already noticed the volumes relating to France, Germany, and Russia. Mr. Hough's volume is brightly written, and fully maintains the high standard of merit attained in the previous books of the series. The chapters on "The Dutch as Readers" and on "Art and Letters" are interesting: the former having value for librarians, because of its account of the reading societies or "Leesgezelschappen," which supply the place of our municipal libraries—apparently in a much less satisfactory manner. We suggest to Messrs. Newnes, as a method of making this series more useful and attractive, the addition of suitable maps and better indexes. The index in Mr. Hough's work is really contemptible, and only serves to hide valuable matter in the text. There is, for example, no reference of any kind to the useful notice on pp. 173-174 of Dekker, whose great novel, "Max Havelaar" created such a stir about thirty years ago. There are hundreds of equally valuable notices of all kinds which are completely ignored in the petty "index" of about forty double lines, apparently compiled by an office boy.



## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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*Public Libraries* for December is a "Library Buildings" number. Mr. E. B. Green writes on "Library Architecture from the Architect's Standpoint"; Mr. J. L. Mauran on "Housing the Books"; Miss Grace Warner has some "Notes on the Architecture of Libraries"; Mr. E. N. Lamm some "Suggestions" on the same subject; an extract is made from Mr. Burgoyne's "Library Construction"; Miss M. S. R. James writes on "Public Libraries of Nassau, N.P., and the Bahama Islands"; Mr. E. P. Van Duzee on "Technical Books in Public Libraries"; and there are some "Extracts from Report of an Information Desk." The articles on buildings are, unfortunately not of considerable value. There is an interesting little note on co-operation among library commissions. The officers of the library commissions of Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota recently held a meeting at Madison, Wis., to decide upon methods of co-operation. The problems in the three States are similar, and the commission work is carried along on much the same lines. Each commission manages travelling libraries, conducts a summer school for library training, and a clearing-house. These three features will be continued separately as before. Co-operation will begin with the printed material. The Iowa Commission will print a bi-monthly bulletin for the three States; the Wisconsin Commission will issue frequent buying lists of new books, and a new edition of the suggestive list of books for Public Libraries; the Minnesota Commission will edit a handbook of practical library work to be written by members of the three commissions. Future work is planned in connection with public documents, short subject bibliographies, and printed catalogue cards. Cannot something of the same sort be done in this country? Why do not several London libraries combine, say, to establish a bindery, where *good* work may be done at a reasonable price? Mr. Melvil Dewey has a note on illustrated lectures on libraries. The library exhibit at Paris aroused great interest among visitors from various countries, who were deeply impressed with the wonderful work being done in the United States for home education through libraries. It was suggested that the methods and results should be brought to the attention of people in countries not overcrowded with Public Libraries by means of illustrated lectures. Mr. Dewey agrees with the scheme on the whole, but points out a danger—"that the wrong person will undertake this, and there will be about it an air of smug self-complacency that we have done these things a little better than all the rest of the world, and that they should sit at our feet and learn"—and also points out that there are vast sections of his own country which need missionary work in order to obtain library facilities. We do not quite know the state of affairs in the United States, but here there is undoubtedly good opportunity of popularising a library by lecturing (with illustrations) on its inside work, and by describing the facilities it affords and the right way to obtain them.

*The Library Journal* for December, 1901, contains a symposium on "The National Library: Its Work and Functions," prefaced by a most important extract from President Roosevelt's Message of December 3rd last; a continuation of Mr. G. W. Cole's "Compiling a Bibliography"; the usual brief articles, notes and news; and the title-page and indices to v. 26. The passage from President Roosevelt's Message has, we believe, now been first published in England, the daily papers thinking fit to throw out a reference to libraries before anything else when considering the cost of transmission.

Perhaps the most characteristic educational movement of the past fifty years is that which has created the modern Public Library and developed it into broad and active service. There are now over 5,000 Public Libraries in the United States, the product of this period. In addition to accumulating material, they are also striving by organisation, by improvement in method and by co-operation, to give greater efficiency to the material they hold, to make it more widely useful, and by avoidance of unnecessary duplication in process to reduce the cost of its administration.

In these efforts they naturally look for assistance to the federal library, which, though still the Library of Congress, and so entitled, is the one National Library of the United States. Already the largest single collection of books on the Western Hemisphere, and certain to increase more rapidly than any other through purchase, exchange, and the operation of the copyright law, this library has a unique opportunity to render to the libraries of this country—to American scholarship—service of the highest importance. It is housed in a building which is the largest and most magnificent yet erected for library uses. Resources are now being provided which will develop the collection properly, equip it with the apparatus and service necessary to its effective use, render its bibliographic work widely available, and enable it to become not merely a centre for research, but the chief factor in co-operative efforts for the diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of learning.

Miss Bertha Blakely, in a short talk, points out the desirability of index to indices of books of general information. *E.g.*, "Curtis's 'Orations and Addresses' touch on many subjects of general interest, to which there is a key in the index. The same is true of Brewer's 'World's Best Orations.'" Peculiarities in indexing should be noted, as this lady shows. The Riverside edition of Lowell's prose works has a very full index to volumes 1-6 in v. 6, while v. 7 is indexed by itself. Again, Schouler's "History of the United States" has in v. 5 an index of the first five volumes, while in each of the other volumes, 1-4 and 6, there is an index for that particular volume.

*The Library Assistant* for January contains a portrait of Mr. A. Cotgreave, reports of various meetings and of the fourth annual bun fight, a short article on "How to Popularise a Public Library," by Mr. W. J. Harris, and interesting notes and news.

## LIBRARY MAGAZINES.

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**The Library Association Record.** November, 1901.

Continuity in Library Work : some preliminary difficulties. By Basil Anderton, B.A.

The Co-operation of adjoining Towns for the establishment of Reference Libraries. By A. J. Caddie.

The Mutual Relationship of Public Library and Technical School. By J. J. Ogle.

Notes, News, &c.

**The Library Journal.** December, 1901.

The National Library : its work and functions. [A symposium on the Library of Congress.]

Compiling a Bibliography.—II. By G. W. Cole.

A Norwegian Branch Library. By H. Nyhuus. [With a plan showing proposed arrangements for open access.]

The Carnegie Branch, Free Public Library, St. Joseph, Mo. [With interesting ground-plan showing arrangements for open access to all departments by means of double turnstiles.]

Library Helps—Indexes. By Bertha Blakely.

Preservation and use of Newspaper Clippings. By H. J. Carr.

A Modification of the Browne Charging System. By C. D. Johnston.

American Library Associations, State Commissions and Associations, Clubs, Schools, &c. Reviews, and other features.

**Public Libraries.** Chicago. December, 1901.

Library Architecture from the Architect's standpoint. By E. B. Green.

Housing the Books. By J. L. Mauran.

Illustrated Lectures on Libraries. By M. Dewey.

Notes on the Architecture of Libraries. By G. Warner.

Suggestions on Library buildings. By E. N. Lamm.

Library Construction. [Extracted from Burgoyne's *Library Construction*.]

Public Libraries in the Bahama Islands. By M. S. R. James.

Technical Books in Public Libraries. By E. P. van Duzee.

Proceedings of Indiana Library Association.

Library Meetings, Library Schools, &c.



## SOUTH AFRICAN LIBRARIES AT JULY, 1901.

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(Return compiled by W. OSBORN, Librarian, Durban, with the assistance of the Librarians of the Libraries.)

## CAPE COLONY.

Name of Library.	Estab.	Librarian.	Books.	Fiction issued, percent.	Reading Room.	Govt. Grant.
Capetown.	1818.	F. S. Lewis, M.A.	100,000.	—	Yes.	£1,050
Port Elizabeth.	1848.	G. Oettle.	36,216.	—	„	£350
Grahamstown.	1863.	W. E. Norris.	15,387.	—	No.	£300
Kimberley.	1882.	B. L. Dyer.	23,843.	—	Yes.	£325

## NATAL.

Pietermaritzburg.	1851.	J. Ross.	11,261.	—	„	£350(?)
Durban.	1853.	W. Osborn.	12,368.	—	„	£250
Verulam.	1857.	Miss H. B. Barker.	2,794.	80.	„	£50
Richmond Inst.	1865.	Mrs. H. Hedgcock.	2,500.	—	No.	£25
Ladysmith.	1872.	Miss Bush.	—	—	Yes.	—
Pinetown.	1873.	Mrs. Horton.	1,100.	—	„	£13
Greytown Inst.	1874.	T. H. Banks.	2,759.	93.	„	£25
Estcourt.	1875.	Rev. H. R. Alkin.	2,300.	85.	„	£25
Ixopo.	1880.	Miss A. Robertson.	2,310.	—	„	£25
Newcastle.	1880.	D. Gorrie.	3,200.	70.	„	£25
Isipingo.	1880.	(Temporarily closed.)	—	—	—	—
Howick Jubilee.	1883.	Miss E. E. Strapp.	1,022.	85.	Yes.	£25
Polela.	1885.	E. A. Hardwicke.	500.†	—	—	£12 10
Harding Circultg.	1886.	M. Nunn.	400.	—	—	£15
Dundee.	1891.	*	—	—	Yes.	£25
Sterk Spruit „	1896.	A. D. Graham.	450.	All.	—	£20
Stanger.	1898.	J. Delvin.	419.	—	—	—

\* Books and documents looted by Boers.

† Through loss by fire.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.]

THE following Fable by Ambrose Bierce which recently appeared in the *New York Journal* is not without interest at the present time when Public Library benefactions are so numerous:—

## THE PENITENT BENEFACITOR.

A millionaire who had founded many Public Libraries died in the consciousness of merit and the faith of eternal renown. While waiting for Charon to ferry him over the Styx he fell into conversation with an author similarly circumstanced.

"It gives me great pleasure, sir," said the millionaire, "to meet one for whose profession I have done so much."

"You are the architect of your own pleasure," said the author. "It was you that brought me here. If you had not made it easy for a hundred persons to read one copy of my works I might have sold enough of them to give me a living, and need not have cut my throat to appease my hunger."

"I never thought of it in just that way before," said the millionaire, in deep meditation. "Perhaps my merit is less great than it seemed; but at least I am sure of my fame; posterity will not concern itself with the wrongs of authors."

"It is authors that you call posterity," the other soul explained. "Their voice is known as the judgment of posterity—that is its nickname. None but they, and those whom they are willing to quote, can get a hearing."

At this the millionaire was so sorry for what he had done that he tried to come back to Pittsburg to lead a different life. But Charon had other views, and at last accounts the good man was in Elysium, lying on a bed of amaranth and moly and singing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

**NEW Library Buildings** have been opened at Hull, Leeds, Lewisham, Stepney, and Woolwich; and arrangements are being made to procure descriptive articles regarding their planning and equipment, which should prove useful to librarians.

**THE Annotation Slips** to new books now being issued by Messrs. Blackie & Son, Limited, are worthy of imitation by all publishers. In each book issued by Messrs. Blackie a little slip is inserted, giving a brief synopsis of the contents of the book, and in the case of novels the scene and period, with a short analysis of the plot. This is a most valuable aid to descriptive cataloguing, and might with advantage be adopted by every publisher.

THE following is a brief summary of recent developments of the Library Movement throughout the country:—The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted by the **Mold** Urban District Council; the **Dingwall** Town Council; **Castle-Douglas** Town Council; **Holywell** Urban District Council; and **Motherwell** Town Council. The rate limit has been raised from  $\frac{1}{4}$ d. to 1d. in the Holborn parishes of the Metropolitan Borough of **Holborn**. The question of adopting the Acts has been postponed in the Metropolitan Boroughs of **St. Pancras** and **Hackney**; but is coming forward at **Knutsford** and other places.

MR. GREENWOOD'S graceful tribute to the memory of **Edward Edwards** is to be inaugurated on the 7th of February next. The following circular has been sent us:—

THE CENTRAL LIBRARY, TOWN HALL, CROYDON.  
*December, 1901.*

THE EDWARD EDWARDS MONUMENT.

Dear Sir,—This memorial to the Chief Pioneer of the Public Library Movement, to be erected in the Niton Churchyard, Isle of Wight, by a Member of the Library Association, will be inaugurated on 7th February, 1902, the anniversary of his death, by Dr. Garnett, Messrs. Charles W. Sutton, William E. A. Axon, and J. J. Ogle. It is fitting that there should be on that occasion as large a representative gathering as circumstances and the distance will permit. Members of Library Committees, as well as Librarians, it is hoped, will be present.

Special terms have been made with the London and South Western Railway Company. The inclusive charge for return railway fare from London to Ventnor, lunch at Ventnor, five mile drive from Ventnor to Niton and back, and afternoon tea:—

FIRST CLASS  
ON RAILWAY, 28/6.

SECOND CLASS  
ON RAILWAY, 21/-.

All taking these tickets should travel by the train leaving Waterloo at 9.0 a.m., due at Ventnor at 1.50 p.m., and returning from Ventnor at 5.28 p.m., reaching Waterloo at 9.53 p.m.

It is important that those who intend to be present should give early intimation to the undersigned.

The monument will be in the yard of Messrs. Alex. Macdonald & Co., 373, Euston Road, London, N.W., early in January, but of this due notice will be given.

Yours truly,

L. STANLEY JAST, *Hon Sec.*

We trust there will be enough of public-spirited librarians who will rally round Mr. Greenwood on the date referred to, to do credit to the Library Association. Edwards had little enough recognition during his life, and still less perhaps after his death, that it is only fitting that those who have builded on the foundation he laid should do themselves and their profession some honour by attending this the most important anniversary of his decease. It is not, perhaps, a very tempting time of year, but in the Riviera-like climate of the Isle of Wight, the weather may as likely as not be both mild and beautiful.

Supplementing the circular, the following notice has reached us:—

THE "EDWARD EDWARDS" MONUMENT.

This Monument, to be erected in the Niton Churchyard, Isle of Wight, by THOMAS GREENWOOD, and inaugurated on 7th February by DR. GARNETT, and others, has been fixed temporarily in the yard of Messrs. A. Macdonald & Co., 373, Euston Road, London, N.W., where it can be seen any week-day from the 18th to the 25th inst., between daylight and dark.

L. STANLEY JAST, *Hon. Sec.*

Central Library, Town Hall, Croydon,  
January 10th, 1902.

A PUBLIC Library is being started at **Trondhjem**, Norway. Open access is the system probably to be introduced. The librarian is Mr. Kristian Koren.

A CORRESPONDENT makes the following useful suggestion re **Museum Publications**:—Now and again monographs on special subjects are issued by library and museum authorities or by local booksellers, which by the limitations of the circumstances of their birth are not generally known, though it may happen that the information contained would be of great use to students, while *prima facie* of service to curators and collectors, some pamphlets and books provided by museum authorities deserve and would obtain wider circulation were their existence known to librarians.

It may be well from time to time briefly to describe the contents of such works, and we invite our numerous friends, especially librarians and curators, to advise us of publications which they consider of more than local interest or likely to tend to the increase of knowledge sufficiently to warrant their inclusion in the "Want Lists" of libraries.

Although our main object is to bring provincial issues into a broader sphere, we propose to include publications of the metropolitan institutions which contain information suitable for students and specialist readers in Public Libraries.

A PUBLIC reading room has been established at **Glasgow**, in execution of a bequest by the late Mr. John Rankin, who died 27th March, 1897, leaving to the Lord Provost and Magistrates property of about £3,000 value, to be devoted to some object of public utility in the old Second Ward of the city, and was opened on January 15th, 1902. A suitable, though small, reading room has been provided in the extensive new baths building in Whitevale Street, the cost of the construction of the room being paid out of the Rankin bequest. The balance of the bequest has been transferred by the magistrates to the Committee on Libraries, by whom it will be used as a partial provision for the cost of maintenance and administration, the cost over and above the produce of the bequest being defrayed from the rate levied for Public Library purposes. The Rankin Reading-room occupies the northern part of the first floor on the Whitevale Street side of the building, and has a separate entrance and stair. It measures 50 ft. by 23 ft., and has been comfortably and substantially furnished with newspaper stands, tables, and chairs similar to the fittings in the Gorbals Library. There is accommodation for about seventy or eighty persons present at one time. The reading matter provided includes 10 daily newspapers, 33 weekly periodicals, and 35 monthly magazines, in the selection of which an endeavour has been made to represent as large a variety of interests as possible. There is a collection of some 600 volumes of works of reference and books in general literature, for use in the room only, and not to be taken away. Part of these are placed in an open bookcase, and may be freely selected by visitors; others will be handed out on request by an attendant. There is no lending department in connection with the reading-room, but it will be constituted a delivery station when the system of Public Libraries already sanctioned has been completed.



THE Local Government Board has intimated to the Leyton Urban District Council that, in future, the expenses of the librarian attending the Annual Meetings of the Library Association shall be disallowed. We have searched in vain for any statutory or other regulation which empowers either the District Auditors or the Local Government Board to make such a surcharge, and we should be pleased to hear from other librarians on the subject, as the question raised is a most important one, both as it affects librarians and the Library Association. In the accounts of many library authorities—County Boroughs, Municipal Boroughs, and Urban District Councils—we observe **payments for delegates** to professional conferences, and it would be very interesting to know why an auditor in one district passes these charges while another, somewhere else, disallows them. It might be as well if the Library Association were to enquire of the Local Government Board under what statutory or other provision they presume to exercise a somewhat arbitrary power in this eccentric fashion.

THE new **Patent Office** Library building is well worth a visit by every librarian who is interested in advanced library methods. It is encouraging to find a State Library so much in front of municipal libraries in the policy of allowing direct access to the reference shelves, and as this liberal and common-sense policy is based upon nearly fifty years' experience, it may be taken for granted that this important Government Department is not in the least affected by the recent alarmist paragraphs against open access which have been making the rounds of the newspapers. The following description taken from the *Daily News* will give a good idea of the general arrangements which have been carried out by Mr. Hulme, the Librarian:—

The extensive range of lofty buildings forming the Patent Office, white brick with white stone facings, and costing £160,000, has now been completed, and yesterday the new library was thrown open to the public. It is one of the most remarkable depositories of curious and interesting knowledge in London. The library is a long hall with arched glass roof, like a market or railway terminus, and along each side are ten bays with book-shelves and tables, and stationery for students and inventors. There are two galleries above running round the hall, in which the shelving and reading-tables are repeated; and altogether there are about three miles of shelving and 100,000 volumes, space still remaining in the upper gallery for large additions. The books deal with all branches of technology and applied science. Logic and pure mathematics are not represented, for no one can patent a syllogism or an improvement in one of Euclid's problems, but astronomy has quite a library of its own, as the instruments in use are the subject of constant inventions. On the tables are also British and foreign scientific and technical journals, and the attendants are ever ready to help the visitor to any information he desires.

MR. B. R. Hill, Librarian of Sunderland Public Libraries is contributing a series of papers entitled "Famous Books: Notes on some rare

editions," to the pages of the Sunderland *Y.M.C.A. Flashes*. In view of the recent revival of the claim that "Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress" (Mr. Hill's first paper) is based upon Cartigny's "Voyage of the Wandering Knight," 1607, it would be interesting if, in a succeeding paper, Mr. Hill would compare these two books; a needful piece of literary criticism we do not remember to have seen properly done.

THE John Buckley Free Library of **Gorton** was opened last year, and forms a handsome addition to the institutions of the district. The building, which is of ordinary red brick, has, on the ground floor, a vestibule and entrance hall. A staircase leads to the upper room. On the right from the main entrance is the lending department a room 42ft. by 28½ft. in size, with all the necessary fixtures. The reading-room, which is on the first floor, is the same size as the room below. It is fitted up with newspaper racks, and contains four polished oak tables 18ft. by 3½ft., with book racks and two smaller tables. The free access system has been adopted in the lending department, whereby borrowers select their own books.

MR. JAMES **Ogden**, of **Rochdale**, has announced that he is prepared to defray the whole of the cost of erecting a wing to the Public Library, and to give his residence for the use of the curator. The gift, if accepted, will be worth several thousand pounds.

SOME thirty shelves, filled with about 550 works of every-day reference, including encyclopædias, dictionaries, gazetteers, almanacks, year-books, atlases, and comprehensive biographical, geographical, theological, historical, technical, and legal works in the **Newington** Reference Library (Borough of Southwark) have recently been thrown open for free use by the public, without any application form having to be filled up.

THE extensive collection of works by and relating to **Burns**, formed by Mr. Andrew Gibson, of Belfast, has recently been acquired by the Linen Hall Library. The collection, comprising about 2,000 volumes, was valued at £2,500, but Mr. Gibson accepted the £500 which had been raised by subscription, leaving it to the local committee to make up the other £500, to complete the modified price of £1,000 originally fixed.



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE first meeting of the Library Association for the current session took place at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, January 13th, 1902, when a fair number of members attended. Mr. H. R. Tedder was voted to the chair, and Mr. H. Rowlatt, Poplar Public Libraries, read a paper entitled "The Provision of Books for the Blind,"

which was briefly, but hardly adequately, discussed. Mr. Thomas Greenwood was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Association, in recognition of his great and disinterested work on behalf of the library movement, and various other new members were elected, including the new Honorary Secretary. The November number of the *Library Association Record* was published on January 1st, 1902, and it is to be hoped the organ will soon make up its arrears and appear with more regularity. It is rather confusing, or it may be to future historians, to find announcements of meetings held in December, and prophetic notices dealing with events in the January following appearing in the November number of a journal!

The prizes for the best reports of the lectures on subjects connected with library administration delivered at the meeting of the North-Western Summer School, held at Wigan in June last, have been awarded as follows:—First prize, Mr. Sydney A. Firth, of the Free Public Library, Birkenhead; second prize, Mr. F. W. B. Howarth, of the Free Public Library, Manchester.

#### NORTHERN COUNTIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE following is a full report of the proceedings of this vigorous Association on December 18th, 1901, referred to in our last issue:—

A meeting of the Northern Counties Library Association was held in Newcastle, on December 18th, at the invitation of the President, Mr. Basil Anderton, B.A., City Librarian. His Worship the Mayor (Alderman H. W. Newton, J.P.), Chairman of the Libraries Committee, received the members and guests at the central library at 1 p.m. Amongst those present were the President and Mrs. Basil Anderton; vice-President, Mr. T. W. Hand, F.R.H.S., Librarian, Leeds; Councillor J. H. Rodgers, member of the Libraries Committee; Alderman Armour, Chairman of Gateshead Libraries Committee; Mr. A. Scott, B.A., Chairman South Shields Library Committee; Messrs. C. J. Spence and Alfred Holmes, Literary and Philosophical Society's Committee; Mr. H. Richardson; Messrs. R. T. Richardson and J. A. Charlton Deas, Sub-librarians Newcastle Public Libraries; Mr. B. R. Hill, Sunderland; Mr. J. W. C. Purves, Workington; Messrs. W. J. Arrowsmith and J. Atkinson, Darlington; W. Brown, H. Griffiths, C. A. Murray, J. Summersgill, E. W. Wright, Sunderland; Mr. and Mrs. J. D. S. Baty, Newcastle; Messrs. J. Burnett, W. H. Gibson, A. Jude, J. Walton, I. Briggs, C. J. Zanetti, T. E. Turnbull, D. W. Herdman, and Miss M. A. Forman, Newcastle; Messrs. A. Errington, South Shields; A. Hair, Tynemouth; H. E. Johnston, Gateshead; A. Watkins, West Hartlepool; W. Wilson, Gateshead; O. C. Hudson, Middlesbrough; and others.

#### RECOMMENDATION OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

- (1) That the minutes of the Annual Meeting, held at Plymouth, August 26th, 1901, be taken as read and signed, having been printed in the Annual Report.—Carried.

- (2) That the invitation of the vice-President, Mr. T. W. Hand, F.R.Hist.S., to hold the next Quarterly Meeting at Leeds about the end of March be accepted.—Carried unanimously.
- (3) That in view of the large increase in membership it is desirable that the number of members now forming the Executive should be increased. Three members present to form a quorum for the transaction of business. The committee suggest the following additional names:—Messrs. Wm. Andrews, Hull; J. M. Dowbiggin, Lancaster; Baker Hudson, Middlesbrough; J. Summersgill, Sunderland; A. Watkins, West Hartlepool; Butler Wood, Bradford.—Carried unanimously.
- (4) The committee reported a donation of fifty copies of Greenwood's "Library Year-Book, 1900-1901," from the author, Mr. Thos. Greenwood, for all assistants or members who were not members of the parent Association.—Resolved, that Mr. Greenwood be cordially thanked for his useful gift.
- (5) That the subject for competition be as follows:—  
A prize to the value of £2 for the best paper on the following subject:—"Prepare an estimate of expenditure for an established Public Library, whose income is £750 net per annum; what proportion of the money, to be spent on books, would you devote to History, Literature, Fiction, and Science?"

*Rules and Regulations.*

- (1) Competitors must not have had more than five years' experience in library work, and must be or become members of the N.C.L.A.
- (2) Competitors must be within the area of the N.C.L.A. (which includes libraries north of Hull, Huddersfield and Preston).
- (3) The prize will take the form of books, likely to aid the assistant in his or her work, or, if desired, will be a contribution towards his or her expenses in attending the Summer School of the Library Association.
- (4) The names of candidates must be sent to the Hon. Sec. not later than January 31st, and all papers must be endorsed "Competitor," and addressed to the Public Library, Workington, not later than February 28th, 1902.
- (5) The papers will be judged and voted upon by the whole of the committee, and the result announced at the next Quarterly Meeting, to be held at Leeds at the latter end of March.

The reading of papers was commenced immediately after the reception. The first paper, by Mr. R. T. Richardson, Sub-Librarian, Newcastle, was entitled "The History of Printing, as told by the books in the Reference Library, Newcastle."

A second paper by Mr. Hill, Librarian, Carlisle, entitled, "Does 'Open Access' extend the educational influences of a library?" was, in the absence of the writer, read by Mr. W. J. Arrowsmith, Darlington.

Both papers caused interesting and useful discussions.

After an interval, a reassembly took place at the Literary and Philosophical Library, where the members were received by Mr. A. Holmes, Hon. Secretary. A paper by Mr. Keogh, Librarian of Yale University, U.S.A. (late of Newcastle), entitled, "English and American Libraries: A Comparison," was read by Mr. Charlton Deas, Sub-Librarian, Newcastle Public Libraries.

This was followed by "The Library Income and the Library Rate." by J. W. C. Purves, Workington (late Newcastle).

After discussions, the party were entertained to tea. After tea, an entertainment was given, Councillor J. H. Rodgers in the chair. The contributors were Mrs. Bernard East, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. S. Baty, Mr. Basil Anderton, Messrs. H. E. Johnston, H. Richardson, J. W. C. Purves, W. H. Gibbon, and Charlton Deas, who gave an exhibition of Cheiroseigraphy. The gathering closed with votes of thanks.

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#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE December Meeting of the Pseudonyms was not so largely attended as usual, owing to many of the members being laid up with vaccinated arms and heads, and others being at home arranging evergreens in view of the approach of Christmas. In these circumstances, the small band of resolute enthusiasts who did attend had a perfectly open field, of which they took full advantage, by committing the absent majority to all kinds of extravagant expenditures. It was unanimously resolved that the time had arrived when The Pseudonyms should appeal to a larger public by publishing a monograph on some important library topic, or by compiling a co-operative index which would be more or less useful to everybody concerned. Various propositions were made on these lines, of which the following is a selection :—

##### WORKS TO BE UNDERTAKEN—Sometime.

- "An Encyclopædia of Library Science. With portraits of the Authors."
- "A Grammar of Advanced Librarianship. With portraits of the Authors."
- "A Biographical Dictionary of Eminent Pseudonyms. With portraits."
- "A Librarian's Song-Book, with music, and portraits of the Authors."
- "An Index to the Chapter Headings of all Literature. With portraits of the Authors."
- "A Volume of Fantastic Essays on Librarianship. With portraits of the Authors."
- "An Index of Beer Bottle Labels."
- "An Index of all Labels used commercially on Tins, Jars, Bottles, Barrels, Boxes, Parcels, &c."

"An Index to all 'Letters to the Editor' of the World's Press."

"A Dictionary of the Bad Language used by all Parties to the Open Access Controversy."

&c., &c., &c.

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#### NORTH MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE Librarians of Notts, Derbyshire, and Lincolnshire met at the Midland Railway Institute, Derby, on December 12th, 1901, when papers on library methods were read, interspersed by a visit to the works of Messrs. Bemrose, and intervals for refreshment.

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#### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of the Society of Public Librarians was held at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday evening, January 15th, when Mr. Z. Moon (Leyton) read a paper entitled "Langland and his Work."



## EDITORIAL.

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**Edward Edwards.**

THE interesting ceremony described in another part of our columns has once more recalled attention to one of the most remarkable characters in the annals of British librarianship. When Mr. Thomas Greenwood endeavoured, at the Plymouth meeting of the Library Association, to interest librarians in the man who had done so much for the craft, it must be confessed that his appeal, for various reasons, did not succeed in arousing so much enthusiasm as might have been expected. For one thing, a considerable proportion of the librarians who attended the Plymouth conference were young men who had not been able to obtain access to the works which Edwards left behind him as his most enduring monument. Again, the prominence given to Ewart as the sole parent of the municipal library movement, had completely overshadowed Edwards' share in the work, and only a few student-librarians knew anything about the part which Edwards had played in securing effective library legislation. On the other hand, the publications of Mr. Greenwood, of the Library Association itself, and other modern and accessible literature, contain frequent allusions to Edwards and his works, from which information could be obtained, and it is only necessary to cite, in this connection the various writings of Messrs. Axon, Ogle, Garnett, Greenwood, Sutton, Brown, and others.

From these sources, even the young librarian who has been unable to obtain Edwards' own books, could have gained some idea of the work which he did for the establishment and management of Public Libraries. The labours of Mr. Greenwood in collecting everything which Edwards left behind him; in issuing the fragment of his unfinished "Memoirs of Libraries," 2nd edition; in erecting a handsome memorial to mark his last resting place; and in preparing an "Appreciation" of his life and works, will do all that is needful to rescue the memory of this great librarian from oblivion, and make it unnecessary for any other enthusiast to play the part of "Old Mortality," as Mr. Greenwood has done.

Edwards was a man of extreme contrasts. In politics, he was a conservative of conservatives, and in religion an Episcopal churchman of the most extreme and narrow type, wedded to mere ecclesiastical forms and observances, and intolerant to the last degree. Yet, in matters affecting education and the social improvement of the people, he was more than half-a-century in advance of his time, and it is doubtful if he is not, in many respects, still a radical of radicals in all that concerns library administration. Fifty years ago he advocated an unlimited library rate, one which should rise and fall according to the needs of the locality, and thereby seems to have anticipated the evil of a fixed rate, such as at present, causes libraries of all kinds to stint themselves in books, staff, buildings and equipment in order to keep within an

artificial limitation which has now neither common-sense nor expediency to sanction it. He was the earliest and most powerful advocate of classification, both on shelves and in catalogues, and in every other respect a foe to the comparatively modern idea, which has arisen in connection with Free Libraries run on the cheap, that a third-rate clerk makes a better librarian and administrator than a first-class scholar or man of education. He saw quite plainly the very obvious connection between scientific methods of work and an adequate income. With the necessary means it is possible to attract to library work men of learning and ability, while with strictly limited means it is only possible to enlist the services of librarians who are only indifferently equipped with the needful knowledge of bibliography, literature, exact classification, and other essentials of advanced librarianship. The views which Edwards has expressed in his writings on libraries, are all in favour of liberal administration, coupled with scientific methods and educated librarians.

The thanks of every librarian are due to Mr. Greenwood for his persevering efforts to secure due and adequate recognition for librarianship in the person of Edward Edwards, one of the greatest figures in the profession. These efforts will bear greater fruit in the future than may seem to be fulfilled by the appearance of a few contemporary newspaper paragraphs, because while honouring the memory of a departed librarian, Mr. Greenwood has succeeded in drawing wide public attention to the library movement and its needs, and in this way has laid a good foundation for future work. Above all, he has provided a shrine which should attract some share of attention from all pilgrims who tread the rough and toilsome path of Education.



## AT THE GRAVE OF EDWARD EDWARDS.

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### UNVEILING THE GREENWOOD MEMORIAL.

ON the cold grey morning of Friday, February 7th, 1902, a small but representative gathering of librarians assembled on the platform of Waterloo Station, London, in response to the invitation of Mr. Thomas Greenwood to join him at the inauguration of a memorial to Edward Edwards, which was to be erected in the churchyard of Niton, in the Isle of Wight. The party comprised:— Messrs. Thomas Aldred, Southwark Public Libraries; William E. A. Axon, of Manchester; Franklin T. Barrett, Fulham Public Libraries; Henry Bond, Woolwich Public Libraries; James Duff Brown, Finsbury Public Libraries; Henry W. Bull, Wimbledon Public Library; Frank J. Burgoyne, Lambeth Public Libraries; Alfred Cotgreave, West Ham Public Libraries; L. Stanley Jast, Croydon Public Libraries; John J. Ogle, Director of Technical Instruction, Bootle, Lancashire; Charles W. Sutton, Manchester Public Libraries; and Fred Turner, Brentford



Public Library; and they left punctually at nine o'clock on their pilgrimage to do honour to one of the departed worthies of librarianship. At Portsmouth the pilgrims were met by Mr. Tweed D. A. Jewers, the Borough Librarian, who accompanied them on the steamer to Ryde, but had to return at that point on account of urgent professional duties. On their arrival at Ventnor, about 2 p.m., the party drove to the Queen's Hotel over the precipitous streets of the town, and were met by Mr. Thomas Greenwood, Dr. Richard Garnett, and the Rev. R. Allen Davies, Congregational minister, Ventnor, who were to take part in the approaching ceremony. The lunch was presided over by Mr. W. E. A. Axon, with Mr. Burgoyne in the vice-chair; and, after the usual loyal toasts had been honoured, the Chairman proposed as follows the toast of—

“THE MEMORY OF EDWARD EDWARDS.”

In proposing the toast of “The Memory of Edward Edwards” there is the satisfaction of knowing that those whom I address appreciate his worth so truly that there is no need to elaborate his claims to grateful remembrance. We do not honour him as a “faultless monster,” though his failings were not such as would embarrass even a Puritan biographer. We recognise in him the qualities of the pioneer, clearing the way and making the path smoother for those who follow. Edward Edwards was a man to whom there came the inspiration of a great thought, and who devoted himself to its realisation with all the energy and enthusiasm of his nature. At a time when the provision for popular education was scanty and imperfect, Edwards was impressed by the waste of talent that lay sterile for lack of opportunity. Then there came to him the thought of bringing the fruits of learning and the inspiration of genius to the homes of the people. By the institution of Public Libraries, freely accessible to all, he desired to bring not only the wealthy and the learned, but also the masses of the nation under the influence of the best teaching of all ages. The precepts of Religion, the speculations of “Divine Philosophy,” History's long record, the “fairy tales of Science,” the weighty thoughts of the statesman and economist, the varied glories of the arts, the myriad inventions of “men, the workers, ever reaping something new,” the travellers' tales of far-off and wondrous lands, the parables of the novelist and the dramatist, the song of the poet—in short, all that learning and all that literature can give for recreation, for reproof and for inspiration—this he desired to make the heritage of the whole English people. It was a lofty thought, and not easy of accomplishment, yet much of it was realised in his lifetime. Few men without the advantages of patronage, position or fortune have made so great an impression upon the age as Edward Edwards. He has enlarged the possibilities of thousands of poor students, and has brought into myriads of cottage homes the moulding influences of the great minds of all time. This generation is reaping where he sowed, and the end of the harvest is still far off—nay, is increasing in richness year by year. We all honour and appreciate the pious feeling which has led our friend and colleague, Mr. Thomas Greenwood, to place a memorial over the resting-place of Edward Edwards. It is fitting and appropriate that this should be done, and that pilgrims from far and near standing by the grave of the pioneer of the free library movement should see the memorial erected by one who has inherited the love of literature and the enthusiasm of humanity which animated Edward Edwards. But there are in reality many other Edwards' monuments. The great municipal collections of Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield and other large towns, the marvellous development in this direction which London

has witnessed in recent years, the noble library benefactions of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, the hundreds of free libraries that have come into existence, east, west, north, and south, though they do not bear his name are not the less the fruits, direct and indirect, of his labour. The free libraries have given the possibility of wider culture, exacter knowledge, purer pleasures, loftier ideals, and greater usefulness to those who avail themselves rightly of the proffered opportunities. Hundreds and thousands have seized the boon, and it is the resulting gain to the community from these better and brighter lives that gives us the strongest cause for cherishing and honouring the memory of Edward Edwards."

The toast was supported by Messrs. Sutton and Ogle, in the able speeches reported below, and was enthusiastically received. Mr. Sutton said :—

A few words are expected from me on this interesting occasion, on account of my having for so many years held a position that was filled by him whose memory we are met to honour. Edward Edwards had retired from the Manchester Free Library seven years before I entered it as a junior assistant. He left Manchester and did not return to it, and I never had the opportunity of meeting him, although in his later years I not infrequently exchanged letters with him. One of my first duties on entering the Free Library was to arrange a mass of official correspondence which Edwards had left behind him, and I well remember being astonished at its copiousness and diversity. But it was only in after years, when I had become accustomed to the evidences of Edwards' operations everywhere around me that I was able to appreciate—I dare hardly say *fully* appreciate—the amount of work which he got through in connection with the establishment and early years of that institution. He had, as we know by his numerous writings, long been drawing attention to England's paucity of educational facilities, especially in regard to Public Libraries: he had inspired Parliamentary action, and had foreseen the result of the measure which at his instigation was introduced by Mr. Ewart and backed by Mr. Brotherton. When he became librarian of the first library to be established under the provisions of that legislative measure, he was obliged to accept a salary miserably out of proportion to his deserts: but poverty was ever the badge of the librarian tribe. He laid down schemes and drew up rules which have been followed by all subsequent town libraries. He compiled a wonderful list of books to be acquired, and he purchased the volumes wisely and economically. These books he then classified and catalogued in a way that proved him to be as great a master in practical librarianship as he was in the literary advocacy of libraries. The success of the library was immediate and has been lasting, and its novelty brought inquiries from many quarters, far and near, and Edwards' correspondence must have taken up no inconsiderable portion of his time; but his enthusiasm and willingness to spare no trouble in extending the benefits of libraries doubtless lightened his task. Amidst these engrossing official duties he found time to work at his monumental "Memoirs of Libraries," and to write sundry smaller contributions. Edwards is said to have been a proud man, who did not always find it possible to forget that he was in mental endowments and professional attainments a little above certain town councillors who were placed in authority over him. Friction not unnaturally was the result. He was probably rather too scornful of their attempts to teach him his business. It is pleasant to know that by his assistants and personal friends he was regarded as one of the most chivalrous and warm-hearted of mortals; and that the few survivors of those who knew him intimately look with cordial approval upon the proceedings in which we are engaged to-day. It should not be forgotten that the first Public Libraries Act did not fully satisfy Edwards. In its passage

through Parliament it had suffered changes that were in his eyes objectionable. Some defects which he pointed out in 1853 were subsequently remedied, but one of them still remains, namely, the limit of the Library Rate. He suggested "the omission of limit affixed to the rate, leaving it to be settled by Town Councils, according to the circumstances of each town, at their own discretion and upon their ordinary responsibility." There must now be few people who would say that Edwards was not right. I shall attempt no eulogy of Edward Edwards as the pioneer of rate-supported libraries, as the historian of libraries, or as a man of letters; nor try to define his place among the educational reformers of the nineteenth century. This task may properly be left in the hands of our host and one or two of his distinguished guests. It must be enough for me to express the delight I have taken in following the pious labours of our friend Mr. Greenwood, and my satisfaction in being permitted to play a small part in the ceremonies of this day, which in more senses than one we may call a memorable day.

He was succeeded by Mr. Ogle, who made the following remarks :—

The generous instincts of Mr. Thomas Greenwood have put within our reach an occasion of happy pilgrimage to the shrine of one of the illustrious dead, whose monument stands in every town in Great or Greater Britain possessed of a municipal Public Library. Yet there was no reason why the mosses should creep over the soil of Edwards' grave for lack of stone whereto to cling. The memorial to-day unveiled may safely be left to the keeping of posterity. May it never need the attentions of an Old Mortality of the future to clear away the encrusting vegetation! May it be a sacred place of pilgrimage for book-lovers of unborn generations, a shrine of gratitude to the father of municipal Public Libraries, and the discoverer of that beneficent profession, the municipal librarian!

Notwithstanding the now popular cry, "things, not words," in the educational world, the word which stands for spirit and life must continue to be accounted for in educating our youth. Laboratories let us have by all means, kindergartens and workshops, school journeys and surveys, but the educational institute is incomplete without the library. Edwards pre-eminently took the educational view of the Public Library—he was not led away by the thought of its recreative function, important as that function is. The recreative must be tolerated for the advantage of the educational uses. The many must be pleased after a wholesome fashion, that students, few or many, in obscurity, or in the light, poor as well as rich, may have books wherewith to make of them scholars for the public good. Twenty years before the date of Forster's Elementary Education Act, Edwards and Ewart had scored a victory for popular education, the full significance of which, in the history of British education, has not been realised by his compatriots.

But this was not all: the Public Library being won, it was necessary that someone should show the way to build and furnish and administer it. This Edwards did at Manchester. In the midst of distressing discouragements he laboured on, and left the fruit of his experience for others' use in the practical part of his great work. "Memoirs of Libraries." This surely was work enough for one, but Edwards was a scholar as well as a practical man, and ever hungry for work. He took the history of libraries for his province, and collected with undaunted industry the materials for the first part of his "Memoirs of Libraries" from a field of reading of vast extent. Every later worker in this field must be greatly indebted to Edwards. How keenly every librarian regrets that he did not live to complete his revision of this work!

After all, the great achievement of Edwards from the national or international point of view was that he not only did more than any other man for the municipalisation of the Public Library, but he set

the pattern of the well-founded and well-governed town library; he realised its educational importance, he made possible the correlation of the Public Library with the different parts of our public educational system; he made the use of books, other than school text-books, an integral part of the training of every educated citizen. As an educator Edward Edwards deserves to rank with Comenius, Froebel, Herbart and Horace Mann. Like these he worked assiduously in the planting and fostering of a fruitful idea.

I cannot claim to have known Edwards in the flesh, but I have spent hours among his papers; I have dipped into his diary, his note-books, his huge commonplace books; I have perused many of his friends' letters to him, and seen the reflection of his heart and purpose, his character and feeling, in a more intimate way than any reader of his published writings alone. And by these experiences I claim to have had some contact with the soul and spirit of Edward Edwards. He was not a perfect being, but his ideas were noble, his affections were pure, his disinterestedness was exalted, his foresight was considerable, his work was sound. He builded not of hay and stubble, but of enduring brass; he sacrificed not to popular applause, but to conscience, to duty, to God.

Speaking for the younger generation, I add my pebble of praise to the cairn of his memory. Before I sit down may I be permitted to add a note of admiration for the generous work on behalf of the same cause as Edwards', which for many years has characterised our host of to-day. Since the publication of the first edition of "Public Libraries" in the year of Edwards' decease until now, Mr. Thomas Greenwood's labours, generosity, zeal have been unremitting and exemplary.

Mr. Burgoyne next proposed the toast of Mr. Thomas Greenwood, and thanked him on behalf of librarians generally for his generous efforts to perpetuate the memory of Edwards, and to further develop the municipal libraries of Britain. This was supported by Mr. Jast, and received with hearty goodwill and sincerity. Mr. Greenwood, in a brief reply, assured his guests that no effort on his part would be spared to help forward the cause of Public Libraries, and he expressed his delight that so many had come to assist in doing honour to the pioneer of the movement.

After lunch the party proceeded in carriages, by way of the Undercliff, one of the island's beauty spots, to the little village of Niton, enjoying on the way the delightful contrast between the beautiful warm sunshine and the distant snow-clad hills. At Niton they were met by the Rev. William Sells, Rector of Niton, and Mr. George Potter, a well-known member of the Library Association. There were also present Mr. Joseph Sams, representing the Council of Ventnor; Mr. Alderman Spicer, L.C.C., of London; the ladies who waited upon Edwards in his last days, and about a hundred and fifty inhabitants from the village and from Ventnor, who showed great interest in the proceedings. The party having proceeded to the grave, which lies under trees on the gentle slope which leads upwards to the parish church, Messrs. Sutton and Ogle unveiled the monument, which was found to be a handsome pillar of polished red Peterhead granite about 9 ft., high, surmounted by an urn, and bearing the following inscriptions: on the urn, "*Cinis non finis*"; on the base, "In Memory of Edward Edwards. Born in London, Dec. 14, 1812. Died at Niton, Feb. 7, 1886. Man of Letters and Founder (with William Ewart and

Joseph Brotherton) of Municipal Public Libraries. This Monument has been placed over his grave in recognition of his work on behalf of Public Libraries by Thomas Greenwood. Inaugurated on Feb 7, 1902, by Richard Garnett, Charles W. Sutton, William E. A. Axon, John J. Ogle."

The Rev. Mr. Sells having offered up a suitable prayer, the Rev. Mr. Davies read one of Edwards' favourite psalms, and then Dr. Richard Garnett, C.B., delivered the following address:---

GENTLEMEN,

At the instance of one among ourselves we are met to-day to enjoy a pleasure long deferred, and to fulfil a duty long delayed. The gratification with which we find ourselves here is inseparable from the consciousness that we are well and honourably employed. Of this, therefore, I need say nothing; but, rather for the sake of those at a distance whom these words may reach than of ourselves to whom I can state little that is not already well known, I comply with the invitation which I have received to say a few words.

"Honour to whom honour." This is an important precept whether regarded in the abstract or in its practical influence upon mankind. In the abstract the due reward of desert is an injunction of natural justice. Practically the same law, sometimes apparently evaded, but in the long run infallible, which ordains that where there is no work there shall be no pay, equally prescribes that where there is no pay there shall be no work. It is only by honouring the benefactors of humanity, especially when circumstances have deprived them of material recompense, that society insures that the stream of benefaction shall be kept up. This is a duty not always ill performed. When we think of the great movements and beneficent inventions which have done so much for our country during the last century, we find that they generally occur to our minds in connection with some one eminent man. We associate Stephenson with railways, Wheatstone with telegraphs, Darwin with natural history, Wakefield with colonisation, Rowland Hill with cheap postage, Cobden with free trade. In the majority of cases, these distinguished men and others like them would feel themselves sufficiently rewarded by the success of their inventions or ideas, and the connexion of their names with these, even did no substantial advantage to themselves ensue. But hard is the fate of the benefactor of mankind who reaps neither profit during his life nor honour after his death. If this were the general rule benefactions would cease, and mankind at large would be the chief sufferers. It is, therefore, useful to the community, as well as gratifying to individual feeling, to seek out instances of such unintentional injustice or negligence, and to endeavour to repair them. In a certain measure, unjust neglect has been the lot of him whom we are now assembled to honour, and it is the consciousness of this that brings us here.

If we cast our eyes over Great Britain at present, we behold it covered with free libraries, the property of the various municipalities, supported by funds derived from all classes of the community, open impartially to all these classes, filled with books available for use either in the building or at the homes of the ratepayers, ably organised, efficiently officered, and, with whatever drawbacks in the main vehicles of invaluable knowledge, inspiring ideas, and healthy mental recreation. Fifty years ago, there was hardly one. Whence the change? Doubtless, if one looks to the very bottom of things, to the community's conviction of its necessity. But who awoke that conviction? Ideas must incarnate themselves in persons, or they remain ineffectual. I do not for a moment overlook the fact that the Free Library movement important as it was, was but a minor feature of that great general

movement for the elevation of the people by means of education which had been progressing in one shape or another ever since Robert Raikes established Sunday Schools, and which had been aided from various motives, sometimes consciously, sometimes unconsciously, by men of the most dissimilar character and of the most dissimilar classes. Doubtless most of these men would have agreed that the wide dissemination of books was a good thing, and important steps had already been taken to promote it by the diffusion of cheap publications by the Useful Knowledge Society, and the well-selected libraries of mechanics' institutes. But these were private undertakings, and although we might probably find expressions of opinion that the matter was one for the community at large, I hardly think that we shall find any systematic attempt to bring this principle into practical operation until between 1840 and 1850, when it is brought forward and, with a rapidity most unusual in the case of great reforms, realised under the guidance of two Lancashire members of the House of Commons, William Ewart and Joseph Brotherton, whose participation in this great work we record this day, and of him whom we are more especially met to honour, Edward Edwards.

The circumstances which made Mr. Edwards, in an especial degree, the apostle of free libraries, and the history of his life in general, are well known to us here, and will become known to the public upon the publication of the comprehensive memoir of him prepared by Mr. Greenwood, which is already in the press. I need not, therefore, dwell upon these circumstances at any length. I may claim for the British Museum the credit of first directing his attention to the subject; not, however, by its excellencies, but by its deficiencies. The particulars of Edwards' early education are obscure, but we find him in London at the age of twenty-three, with a considerable amount of knowledge and an ambition to make himself useful to his fellow-men in some department of literature, art, or politics. He naturally resorted to the library of the British Museum as the chief repertory and arsenal of knowledge, and found it in that pre-Panizzian era lamentably behind the times. The accidental coincidence of the appointment of a committee of inquiry into the general administration of the Museum gave him the opportunity of stating his views both as a witness and as the author of a pamphlet. This procured him the notice of many eminent public men, gave his mind that bent towards library matters which it otherwise would not have received, and induced him to seek an appointment in the library of the British Museum. This engagement proved, indeed, satisfactory neither to himself nor to the institution, but its very failure proved instrumental in directing him to a wider field of usefulness. Finding himself, for whatever cause, disqualified from taking a conspicuous place at the Museum, he, as Emerson says of the man whom social defects throw upon himself for companionship, and who profits by meditation and introspection, "mended his shell with pearl." He took up the question of libraries generally, and especially devoted himself to showing how lamentably, in respect of facilities provided by libraries for the education of the bulk of the people, England was behind most Continental countries. If in preparing his statistics he was guilty of many errata, this is comparatively immaterial; the one unpardonable erratum would have been to have left the matter alone. He was fortunate in exciting the attention and gaining the sympathy of one of the most useful members that ever sat in Parliament, William Ewart, then representing a Scotch constituency, but a Liverpool man, and formerly member for Liverpool, whom, along with Joseph Brotherton, member for Salford, we are also honouring to-day. Mr. Ewart procured the committee on Public Libraries which prepared the way for the Free Public Libraries Act of 1850, which he drew up, introduced, and actually got passed into law the same session, an achievement which in these days I fear we should think almost

incredible for a private member. Edwards appears as the leading and moving spirit, alike in the proceedings of the committee and in its copious appendixes. It is as much his epic as the report of the British Museum Commission of 1848-50 is Panizzi's.

I think that we are fully justified in awarding to Edwards the leading part in the inauguration of that free library movement in which we are all so deeply interested, which has accomplished so much for the country already, and which is destined to accomplish so much more. But it is not to be inferred that his coadjutors were ciphers. In my connection with public business I have occasionally been reminded of a circus procession I once chanced to see entering a provincial town. The Queen of Beauty towered enthroned upon a car, drawn to all appearance by two elephants, two buffaloes and two dromedaries. But the six stately quadrupeds were in reality drawing nothing; all the work was in fact being done by a little, quiet, patient, insignificant horse in the shafts. Many an august body is thus conducted, but such was not the case with the undertakings in which Mr. William Ewart interested himself. His correspondence with Edwards, of which Mr. Greenwood's memoir affords interest, shows conclusively his ardent interest, his unflagging industry, and his responsibility for every detail. When we turn to Mr. Ewart's own biography we must feel astonishment at the amount and importance of the useful work performed by him. What he did for the advancement of knowledge in 1850 he had already done for the advancement of art in 1836, when a report drafted by him led to the establishment of schools of design. Civil Service examinations, the permission of unattached students at the universities, the annual ministerial statement on the progress of education, all took their origin from his suggestions. With regard to Joseph Brotherton it is hardly necessary to say anything. No one who knew him could imagine his co-operating otherwise than actively and usefully in any undertaking in which he might be interested. I cannot claim to have enjoyed Mr. Brotherton's acquaintance, but I well remember the opinion entertained of him in Manchester and Salford, and the universal respect entertained by men of every form of opinion for a member of a small unpopular sect, and a representative of political views which many then deemed extreme. Manchester and Salford only reflected the opinion of Parliament. Seldom has anyone, beginning public life under such disadvantages, obtained such personal influence within the House of Commons as Joseph Brotherton.

Edwards' services did not go unrewarded. He obtained the chief librarianship of the first important free library established under Mr. Ewart's Act, the library at Manchester. The salary was, indeed, grievously inadequate, but, although the public had been taught the value of libraries, they had yet to learn the value of librarians. Nevertheless, the opportunity of his life seemed to have come to him. Alas! it had not. There was something in the man's nature which disqualified him for harmonious co-operation with superior authorities. His seven years' service at Manchester, though full of useful work and highly honourable to him in many respects, terminated in his enforced resignation. From this time he lived the life of an author, and of a librarian undertaking special tasks with no binding official tie. In the former capacity he accomplished important things. His "Memoirs of Libraries" and "Founders and Benefactors of the British Museum" are standard works, and his other literary performances have value. His library work as cataloguer and calendarer was chiefly performed at Oxford. For many years he supported himself gallantly and honourably by his sole exertions; but when at last his library services were no longer required, and the fields of authorship were occupied by younger men, and he had nothing to rely upon but a most pitiful pittance of a pension, he found himself confronted by the dread of want and the actual presence of debt, most galling to his independent

spirit. For this, let me say, his profession bears no blame. Had his position been known, aid would have been instantly forthcoming, tendered in a manner which, far from humiliating, would have honoured him. It had been actually proposed that he should preside over the first conference of the Library Association, and, although his deafness and other circumstances rendered the proposal inexpedient, it showed that the free libraries did not forget to whom they were in a measure indebted for their existence. But he was living in this remote village, beyond which little respecting his circumstances could transpire, and so it came to pass that one winter's night, alone and despairing, he almost perished in the snow, not far from the spot where we are now standing. Yet he rallied, and closed his eyes in peace; and we are here to-day discharging a duty towards his memory—in so far as we are librarians honouring our profession, and in any case honouring ourselves. Some of the reflections thus aroused are too obvious to be dwelt upon; others too serious: in either case I pass them by. Yet I cannot forbear remarking that many years have passed since it has been possible to erect a memorial to Edward Edwards, and that if the possible has become the actual, and if this quiet churchyard no longer affords an illustration of the too true proverb that "everybody's business is nobody's business," we owe this to one of whom, as he is now among us, I will make no particular mention, but through whose disinterested exertion it is that the preacher's saying, so often applicable, is applicable no longer to free libraries and their founder: "There was found a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man."

The benediction was next pronounced by the Rev. Mr. Sells, and the formal proceedings in connection with the inauguration of the monument were then concluded.

Photographs of the scene were then taken by Mr. Turner, of Brentford, and the party adjourned to the Rectory, where they were entertained by the Rector and Mrs. Sells, for which hospitality they were awarded a cordial vote of thanks moved by Mr. Jast and seconded by Mr. Potter. The return drive to Ventnor was made by a different route, and the party arrived in time to get the 5.28 train for London. The whole of the arrangements were in the hands of Mr. I. S. Jast, of Croydon Public Libraries, and were a tribute to his good management and energy.

Thus ended a most memorable day, which is without precedent in the annals of British librarianship. The arrangements, the weather, and the hospitality of Mr. Greenwood, all combined to make the occasion interesting and successful; while the solemnity attaching to the thought that the pilgrimage was one to do honour to a great librarian who was not appreciated in his own day, and died in a state of poverty and neglect, gave the needful tone of seriousness to the function which will doubtless stamp it indelibly on the memory of everyone who was so fortunate as to be present. The disinterested action of Mr. Greenwood in erecting this memorial to Edwards is something more than a mere sentimental recognition of a pioneer's claim to posthumous notice. It is an outward and tangible sign of very material progress in the growth and development of municipal libraries, and will do more to arouse interest in the movement and keep it before the public, than many a more elaborate and showy effort. For years past Mr. Greenwood has been quietly working away in his



own unostentatious, but effective manner, to continue the work so well begun by Edward Edwards, William Ewart and Joseph Brotherton, and it is undoubtedly owing to his action that so much success has attended the recent movement to extend the Public Library system all over the country. Few librarians realise what they owe to Mr. Greenwood for his patriotic and disinterested action in persistently keeping Public Libraries before the people and the press, but they can hardly fail to recognise his noble effort to keep green the memory and work of one of the craft, whose high attainments and deeds were impotent to shield him from adversity in old age.



## BOOK ANNOTATION IN AMERICA.

By ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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### II

#### SOME USEFUL GUIDES.

IT is, I think, greatly to the credit of American authors of guide-books to books that they at once saw their primary duty was to sift and assort. The first object of a guide is to tell readers what are the best books—the best, that is to say, for their particular line of study. In other words, each descriptive note must be both analytical and critical, must set forth the book's scope, and state how it compares with the other books dealing with that subject-matter. Appraisal is logically bound up with annotation. If you annotate, you must evaluate and select; to annotate good and bad to an equal extent would be as useless as it is impracticable. Selection is the first stage in the work of appraisal; the next stage is to discriminate the smaller classes within the larger. It is of little use offering to learners and to average readers an extensive bibliography. They want guidance, they want the best books of all marked out for them; perhaps they will never persevere beyond these, and it is the desultory reader as much as the student whom it is our object to allure.

The books I am going to refer to as examples of American work have probably been reviewed already in *The Library World*, but they are well worthy of being advertised again and again. One of the earliest attempts to produce a general guide on modern lines to the principal departments of literature and science was the "List of Books for Girls and Women and their Clubs, edited by Augusta H. Leyboldt and George Iles," published in 1895 for the American Library Association (price 50 cents in paper, \$1 in cloth); it contains about 2,100 titles. The list of collaborators is a long one, comprising librarians, newspaper critics, professors, teachers, and other specialists in various sections of the purview. The plan was to allot each section or subsection to an expert, while the sprinkling of library assistants shows

that the reader's interests v to  
two dozen main subject-headin ;  
obvious, such groups as Educ  
Culture, Country Occupations, &c. j  
the breadth of view of the auth  
and the absence of pedantry. And  
like characterisations of each book  
and sympathetic teacher. In add  
the sections give the reader val ni ,  
recommending methods of readu  
instance, the short list on geolc  
and the historical section quo s  
living institutions. The followi a  
number refers to the decimal cl ncaation :—

AGASSIZ, Elizabeth C. and Alexander.

Seaside Studies in Natural History. Illus. Bost., Hough-  
ton, \$3.

A treatise on the marine creatures common to our coast, more  
particularly that of Massachusetts Bay. Too scientific for the  
beginner, but useful to more advanced students as a manual. 590.7.

Perhaps the most interesting section of all is the select list of novels  
drawn up by Mrs. Logan, "a reviewer for *The Nation*." I shall have  
to refer to it again when I come to the annotation of fiction. Alto-  
gether, the "List" is a substantial contribution to descriptive annotation  
of books, and is much more generally useful than its title would  
indicate.

Mr. George Iles, one of the editors, gives "an example of its use-  
fulness. Wisconsin is an agricultural State, with a population for  
the most part centered in small towns and villages. The chairman of  
the State Library Commission, Mr. F. A. Hutchins, writes that the  
"List" has doubled and quadrupled the purchasing power of the few  
dollars usually available in forming or extending small libraries. In  
Milwaukee, much the largest city in the State, the question might be:  
Which is the best exposition of Browning's "The Ring and the Book"?  
But what the village of Fox Lake wants to know is: Which are Dickens'  
six best books, and which are the best editions for six dollars?"

An earlier example of such a guide-book was edited by Mr. R. R.  
Bowker and Mr. George Iles in 1891, a "Reader's Guide in Economic,  
Social and Political Literature," a book of some one hundred and sixty  
pages, which proved very popular and serviceable, and no doubt paved  
the way for the lists issued by the A.L.A.

Two of the sections in the 1895 "List" were amplified and issued  
as a book in 1897, at the same price, under the title "Annotated  
Bibliography of Fine Art"; painting, sculpture, the decorative arts,  
&c., being treated on by Russell Sturgis, and music, by H. E.  
Krehbiel, both well-known writers on their respective subjects. Here  
we have an excellent sample of the guide-book drawn up by a specialist.  
Obviously such a guide must be superior in many respects to all others.  
The specialist has a thorough working knowledge of the literature of

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care of. There are about  
embrace, beside the more  
ience and an art, Physical  
ere list of subjects shows  
sympathy with the reader,  
es are thoroughly business-  
standpoint of an intelligent  
of introductions to some of  
ni , both positive and negative,  
ning him of pitfalls. For  
ed by a eulogy of field-work,  
ic Harrison's advice to study  
a air type of the notes; the

his subject, he knows the difficulties students have habitually to encounter, and has learnt by experience how best to overcome them; he is not only acquainted with the defects of inferior works, but may be expected to understand the best correctives. When evaluation is the dominant function of a book-list, then let us have a board of critics,<sup>7</sup> a judicature of letters, if you will, in preference to a single well qualified scholar; but for practical guidance the latter is surely the man we want. The book is much more than a bibliography, or even a guide to books. Taking a broad view of their duties, the authors have given it, in a series of prefaces and correlating paragraphs, some of the features of an introductory treatise on the study of these arts; it enunciates principles as well as indicates the best reading; it is primer and bibliography combined. In fact, the authors have designed their work to be suitable for continuous reading. How far they have been successful in this endeavour is, however, a questionable point. The alphabetical order which adapts the books for ready reference is an obstruction to a connected perusal, which would, indeed, be profitable only when the books were arranged chronologically, so as to illustrate historical development. I am not competent to appraise the technical value of the notes; as to their utility as guide-posts, let a few specimens speak for themselves:—

BELL, *Sir* Charles.

ANATOMY AND PHILOSOPHY OF EXPRESSION AS CONNECTED WITH FINE ART. Ed. (Bohn) N.Y. Macmillan, \$1.50.

This celebrated book still retains its utility; its views should be compared with those in Hamerton's "Man in Art" Beard's "Action in Art," and Darwin's "Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals." The illustrations are deservedly esteemed. 700.

RUSKIN'S "Stones of Venice."

This work was completed in 1853 in three large volumes, with many illustrations. It is not advisable that the student should depend upon its conclusions, or even its suggestions. It is even more decidedly characterized than the author's other works by that false theory of criticism which may be stated thus:—Reason out first what a given work of art ought to express, and then compare the actual work of art with your conclusions, and denounce it boldly if it deviates from such a standard.

Those books only are to be used for edification which follow the opposite course, and begin by examining carefully what the work of art does say and is meant to say, and then go on comparing this with other works of art and the conditions which govern it and them.

720.45.

COLVIN, SIDNEY.

Article FINE ART. Encyclopædia Britannica, 9th ed.

Full of good sense and just perception. Even what seems fanciful will be found to be suggestive and to help to a right sense of what fine art is. The student should notice an error in speaking of sculpture, &c., as "imitative arts." Fine art should not be said to imitate anything, but only to represent or express what it deals with. Indeed there is no such thing as an imitative fine art or a fine art of imitation.

Erman, Adolf.

LIFE IN ANCIENT EGYPT. Transl. by Helen Mary Tirard.  
 Illus. N.Y. Macmillan, 1894. \$6.

A knowledge of the religion, customs, dress, &c., of the Ancient Egyptians is necessary for even a slight understanding of their art, which, without it, remains an unmeaning and comparatively unimportant decoration. This book may be recommended, although the original text dates from 1889. The discoveries of the last few years are of singular importance; we may reasonably expect to see new editions of this work which will contain their results. In the meantime this is the best work of the kind existing, always excepting those by Maspero which have their peculiar value. 932.

American annotators draw a useful distinction between readers' notes and librarians' notes; these, as you see, may be regarded as a compromise between. As a whole, the book may be characterised as a valuable treatise on the literature of a special subject, full of instruction as to methods of study, of explanations of authors' differing points of view and personal limitations, such as only a well-equipped teacher could supply.

There is one thing I miss in these excellent guide-books which I should like to see included, and that is a graduated series of courses of reading; there is, indeed, no attempt to discriminate the very best works by means of asterisks. In a paper which was contributed some time ago to the *Library Association Record*, I suggested that the books recommended for any branch of study should be mapped out into three courses of reading; a few elementary works for beginners and general readers, a selection of standard works for students, and, thirdly, a series of larger books for advanced students. Who are better qualified to construct a guide, on this adaptable plan, to each of their chosen departments than the experts whose work we are surveying? Without some such arrangement of courses for learners, the guides tend to become merely descriptive bibliographies, suitable for readers who have made their way far beyond the initial difficulties. As the guide-books grow in size and comprehensiveness, the needs of the untutored reader are more and more lost sight of.

One of the most ambitious attempts to provide something like graduated courses of reading is a "Graded and Annotated Catalogue of Books in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, for the use of the City Schools. 1900." In a catalogue of 317 pages, the books set apart for lending to the schools of Pittsburgh have been arranged into nine grades, corresponding to the age and attainments of the children in nine successive standards. The earliest classes comprise, of course, children's books pure and simple; the highest classes contain a numerous and excellent selection of general literature, works on history, travel, science, &c. The books for each grade are arranged in classes, and described in admirably clear, illuminating, and stimulating notes. There are, it is true, no courses in exactly the same sense as I have suggested: these are not needed when the teacher acts as librarian; but the cross-division of the books into successive grades is a

useful help to the teachers is arranging such courses for their pupils. Useful bibliographies on Art, Kindergarten and Pedagogy are appended.

This is but a single specimen of many catalogues, guide-books and bulletins, published by individual libraries in the United States, that are full of valuable work and show great originality, industry and enterprise. I have in my hand, for example, the first "Bulletin of the Free Library of Philadelphia" (published Nov., 1898). It consists of a "Descriptive Catalogue of the Writings of Sir Walter Scott," by John Thomson, which is a bibliography and historical and analytical description of all the works of Scott, including essays, prefaces, reviews, and fugitive poems. It is crammed with information, and, unlike most bibliographies, is readable and interesting. With some other publications of individual libraries that show careful research, industry, and generous outlay for the benefit of readers, I shall deal under the head of "Fiction."



## THE LIBRARY OF THE FUTURE.

By ERNEST A. SAVAGE, *Sub-Librarian, Croydon Public Libraries.*

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IT has been kindly suggested by the editor of this magazine that it would not be uninteresting to put forward a fuller *résumé* of the above paper (read before the November meeting of the I.A.A.) than that which appeared in the *Library Assistant*, cut down as it was through a misunderstanding on my part. Here it is, therefore, shorn of its rhetorical purple patches, but otherwise unaltered.

In the first place, what form is the "external" administration of the library system to take? By "external" administration I mean that in the hands of other authorities than library committees, such as Parliament and the County and Town Councils. At the present moment this side of the administration is far from being in an ideal state. The result of the method of rating in vogue is that three-quarters of the library system is in an anæmic condition. The anæmia exists where the movement has been initiated prematurely, where, as in some London districts, it is crippled by loans and enormous ground-rents, where a group of zealots has engineered the adoption of the Acts in districts producing a rate insufficient to carry them out properly, and where, as in Cornwall, a rich enthusiast has erected, with careless munificence, handsome libraries whose income permits of no adequately paid librarian, no additions to stock, and no gaslight for its evening readers. I call this aspect of the movement anæmic because it is due, not to any inherent defect in the movement itself, but to rapid growth under bad conditions—the worst condition being the legislative limit to the nutrition doled out by a paternal Government, which, if nearly sufficient in some

towns, is far from being so in public movement should be co large town with many of the system, the small towns and country districts with adjoining parishes to com *easiest* thing in the world to form su many villages and hamlets have ne enjoy them depend on the clergy and literature, or those goody-goody story of literature in these benighted d produces the worst effects; but it libraries have been opened with but in income; and it must be confessed their poverty, a distressing spectacle.

What will be remedy for the situation thus created by the method of rating? One remedy suggests itself at once: the removal of the penny limit. This would imply better administration, and better books for nearly all Public Libraries; it would also give authorities the means to organise travelling library systems, and, in this way, to send out literature to the now bookless villages. Most probably this reform will take place in the immediate future. But, obviously, it will not be entirely satisfactory.

I venture to predict some rather drastic changes in what I have termed the external administration of libraries. In nearly everything a tendency towards centralisation is perceivable. I think we may look forward to centralisation in library work. In England there has recently been a movement towards educational co-ordination; an attempt has been made to bring the schools under the control of the Town Council instead of under the control of the School Board. This was attempted to prevent overlapping of teaching, and to dovetail the work of the elementary schools into that of the secondary schools. It seems to me very probable that the Public Library will eventually form part of this co-ordination. Here then are two probabilities—or rather, two tendencies—which we can perceive: centralisation and co-ordination. How will they be associated in future work? It is clear that if the Public Library movement is to become of any importance in the nation it must have a representative at Parliament. And, unless a new Ministry is created, which is quite unlikely, the representation will devolve on the Education Minister, as it has devolved on the Education Department in the U.S. This Minister, until that time responsible solely for the elementary and secondary education of the country, will then be responsible for the library work of the kingdom as well. He will be responsible, I say, but will only nominally control it. The real control of the library system will be exercised at a Central Bureau, which I expect to see established in London, most probably in close connection with the British Museum. Its work will consist of something of this sort:—

- (1.) It will practically suggest and control any legislation with

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It is unfair that any a rate which endows a ges of a great educational of them, and the villages the Act of 1892 permits e Acts, but it is not the mbination. Consequently n a library; those which y to keep up the stock of ich pass as the whole range here unequal distribution f severely in towns where it prospects of a sufficient they present, in the midst of

reference to books. (2.) It will discuss all methods of service, and decide on all forms of "missionary" work; receive, collate, and comment on reports sent in from the libraries of the country. (3.) It will catalogue all books published, giving full titles and imprints, informative annotations, and classify them according to a certain classification; and the entries will be printed for distribution throughout the country. (4.) It will compile all topical bibliographies, aid in the compilation of local bibliographies, &c. (5.) It will discuss and conduct all experiments in library appliances, and employ draughtsmen and pattern makers to work up ideas into plans and models. There will be, in fact, a small body of experts in library furniture and fittings, open to advise any library authority in the kingdom as to the arrangement and fitting of their building. (6.) It will publish all library technical literature, and distribute copies gratuitously to other libraries.

Of course I can only give a bare outline of the work which this Bureau will undertake: its real extent cannot be conceived now. But whatever its work, it is certain that it will be of the utmost importance, needing the supervision of an expert council or authority. What will be the constitution of this council? Will it not consist of the chief librarians of the County Central Bureaux?

I must now explain what the County Central Bureaux will be, and the work they will do. The county will be the administrative unit. At some town within each county, preferably a central town, there will be a central store and administrative Bureau, controlled by a committee of the County Council, and managed by expert librarians. This Bureau will be mainly supported by a levy on the Rural District Councils, and on the authorities without libraries, of so much in the pound on the rateable value. In return for this support a system of travelling libraries will be organised to reach every bookless town, village and district in the county. Towns already having Public Libraries will also contribute a certain percentage of the income they receive towards the work of the County Bureau, and in return for this support the following work will be done for them:—(1.) All binding, and similar work, such as the making of pamphlet boxes, printing, and the provision of supplies peculiar to library work. (2.) The County Bureau will act as the distributing agency of the Central Bureau. (3.) It will be a main agency for the purchase, and a central library for the preservation, of local books, which will be lent, if necessary and not in use, to the surrounding libraries. As a whole, the heads of these County Bureaux will virtually form the management of the Central Bureau; but they could not all serve, as the council would be made unwieldy thereby. It is most probable that a certain number will be elected by their fellows to act as the Executive.

One of your criticisms of this probable reform will be that it is impracticable and Utopian, and therefore cannot be a future development. Well, I will not say that it *is* practicable: I will not say that it is *not* Utopian. But I would remind you that the Public Library movement, in its early days, was regarded as a step towards Utopia.

And, further, on the question of its practicability, I may mention that I have visited a hamlet consisting of less than a dozen houses where the postman calls twice a day, and where there is a school-house within easy walking distance ; and if the postal service and the education system can extend themselves to the uttermost corners of the country, and still be vitally connected with central authorities, then the Public Library system can do the same. Well, assuming for the sake of argument that it is *not* impracticable, and that it *may* come, we shall arrive at this result :—

We shall have a central advising Bureau, one system of classification, and one system of cataloguing throughout the country, and one system of service, instead of half-a-dozen systems of classification, which librarians either modify or do not use at all, innumerable methods of cataloguing, each of which is the best in the world to a few men and the worst in the world to all the rest, and lastly many methods of service. With the County Bureau we shall get : A network of travelling libraries and deposit stations which will place books in the way of everyone in the kingdom who needs them ; a bindery where the work will be done by expert binders who do nothing else but library work ; and other minor advantages too numerous to mention. Without the County Bureau we supply the large towns with some approach to adequacy ; we half-starve the readers of small towns ; we wholly starve the villages ; and we entrust our binding to outsiders whose work is a librarian's nightmare.

Naturally a system like this could not be established by agreement or confederation among library authorities ; it must be created legislatively, and a fixed rate must be levied uniformly throughout the country. And, in my opinion, the economy of a centralised and uniform system of Public Libraries would be so great that a rate of a penny or three halfpence in the pound will provide ample income for very effective administration everywhere.

But if a Central Bureau is to catalogue and classify the books and recommend the form of service at our town libraries ; and if the County Bureau is to do our binding and similar work ; will there be nothing else to do but counter work at the town library? Well, if so? We shall begin to develop counter work, to bring service to the high water mark of smartness, to multiply mechanical aids to the people, to make ourselves more thoroughly acquainted with our resources, to have time, in short, to render that ample assistance to borrowers which we cannot render now. Without good and efficient counter work the Public Library will never be an unqualified boon—all elaborate classification and cataloguing, all printed aids, will avail nothing, if the general smartness and personal helpfulness of the staff are wanting.

But, in point of fact, there will be plenty of other work to do. The correlation of the Central Bureau with the Educational Department which I mentioned before will take effect in the town also : the Public Library, the elementary and secondary schools, and the polytechnics will be under an Education Committee of the Town Council. Only by this correlation can the best work be accomplished.



When do libraries perform their most important functions? At present they only step in where the schools leave off, carry on the education of the young from this point, and attempt—not too successfully—to form tastes which should have been formed in the school. Here is a sphere of work which entitles them to rank as educational agencies. But its scope is too limited. The books must circulate *through* the schools and colleges and assist the teachers to form that taste, and to more highly specialise that technical knowledge, which neither they nor the libraries can hope to do separately. Then students, on leaving, will go in greater numbers to the libraries, and choose a higher class of books; and we should probably reach some strata of the population utterly beyond us now. Here then is a field of interesting labour—over and above counter work.

Let me give another example of the work of the future. The library will also form the centre of organised associations for studying, such as literary, scientific, and political societies and clubs. One of the most important parts of the future library will be a meeting room or hall for the reception in turn of those clubs and societies established in the community for the purposes of discussion and conversation. It will be the duty of the librarian to co-operate with them by displaying, night by night, the books relative to the topics under discussion, and, in addition, to provide assistants or custodians who have some knowledge of the topics, and who are able to explain and describe the scope of each book shown. This is to a small extent done now, but in the future this co-operation, in my opinion, will be organised, and will extend to all local institutions. Will societies, then, be provided with books at the expense of the library authorities? So far as the books they study are books which the general public are likely to call for—yes, by all means. But if, as in the case of a Microscopical and Natural History Society, the books are of an abstruse nature, and only likely to circulate among a small body of readers, then they should be provided by the Society itself, but should be classified and annotated by the library authority, and kept on the library premises. In return for the use of the meeting room, and for the storage and the cataloguing of the books, the library will claim the right to issue them to ordinary borrowers. In this way nearly all the books in one town will probably be gathered together in one place. The resources of all kinds of societies—literary scientific, religious, political—would be gathered together with the town collection in one building, and that building would form the centre of the intellectual activities of the community. This is example number two of other work than counter work, and many others might be given were there time.

What form will the future library take? I do not see how the library of the future can be other than an open access library. And this is the reason. The Public Library movement is a liberal movement; it permits the reading section of the public to borrow books at the expense of the entire body of the inhabitants. A liberal institution must not only remain liberal, but it must advance gradually through

stages of liberality to absolute freedom ; if it does not advance, it will be in a state of retrogression. Open access is a stage on the road to absolute freedom. Moreover, it is based on the right of the townspeople to demand admission to their own shelves to choose their own reading, so long as the common weal does not suffer financially—which may mean intellectually. I am looking at it, if you please, from the point of view of the public, and the advantages to it are perfectly obvious and incontestable. Which is the more educative?—the consultation of catalogues whose standard of efficiency is limited by a diminutive income, or the books themselves? To turn over books, note their style, their form, their illustrations, and define their scope by glancing at the preface and contents pages—this is the only way to obtain a true and illuminative notion of the value of books as a whole, or to choose the best among them, or, what is the same as the best, those answering one's immediate purpose. These are good reasons for thinking that the library of the future will be an open access library.

In one respect the policy now being pursued by libraries will probably be overthrown ; reference libraries will, as reference libraries purely, no longer form a part of the future library. Of course it is perfectly right and proper that they should be established and carried on under present circumstances. With the limited income at the disposal of library authorities, it would be impossible to replace many of the books usually preserved in reference libraries if lost or worn out ; impossible also because many are out of print. Well, if the future library system is to be as well organised as I think, then the funds will permit of the re-purchase of expensive works, and the re-publication of out-of-print books by the Central Bureau. Of course, directories, encyclopædias, and very expensive illustrated works, and books, maps and prints absolutely impossible to replace, will make up a small reference collection. But others which do not fall into this category it would seem unwise and illiberal to reserve for reference purposes alone. Yet, if they are not so reserved, should not we lose one of the principal advantages of the reference library—"that great advantage which lies in the fact that books of reference are not separate units, but constituents of one organic whole." One book refers you to another, and from that you are referred to others—in one room you are led step by step from one insignificant original source to all the important matter on your subject which the collection contains. But when you take a book home from the lending department, it is, so long as you have it, your sole source of information. Well, this advantage need not be lost. Let us imagine two adjoining rooms opening one into the other. One would contain the small collection reserved for reference, and tables for readers, the other would be the main library combining the functions of an open access lending department and of an open access reference department. This plan, it seems to me, will give all the advantages of a reference library, and would give lending library borrowers books for home use now usually considered too valuable for that purpose.

I have only tried to picture this evening the library of the

*immediate* future, and my attempt at a picture is the result of tendencies observable at the present time. For example, the notion of the Central Bureau is imported from the United States, where the project of making the Library of Congress perform the functions of this Bureau has been broached and discussed from time to time. The idea of distributing printed catalogue entries from a Central Bureau is taken from the attempt now being made by this same Library of Congress. Again, the idea of libraries combining to publish out-of-print books comes from Mr. J. D. Brown. And so on. I believe I am absolutely correct in saying that no development has been "foretold," if I may use the term, the germ of which is not being favourably cultivated at the present day. This paper, therefore, is not mine: I have tried to bring together from various sources what seemed to me sound ideas of progress and development, and to realise, for one half-hour, the library which such materials would make.



## LADY ASSISTANTS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By FRANK E. CHENNELL, *Willesden Green.*

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THE librarian of a large suburban library is reported to have recently stated that any vacancy occurring among the senior assistants in the institution he controls, will, in future be filled by promotion from the junior staff, the places of the latter to be filled by the appointment of *girl assistants*.

I trust that it will be generally and readily admitted that this heavy incursion of the lady assistant into the ranks of our profession should be considered with some gravity.

It is not my intention to approach the matter from any selfish standpoint of competition.

Whether the increase in the number of lady workers in our libraries be fair or the reverse to coming librarians should not greatly concern us. The ubiquitous female now competes in every profession, and, in many, it cannot be gainsaid, most worthily.

Two simple and obvious remedies should suggest themselves to the would-be librarian. Either to outstrip his lady competitor in efficiency, or—to marry her.

It would be presumption, and outside the scope of this article, to even suggest which of these two alternatives is to be preferred.

Nor do I propose to discuss the matter from the standpoint of the library. The Committee, or the librarian, is responsible for these innovations in the appointment of staffs, and they alone are best able to decide whether the institution they conduct has, or has not, benefited either pecuniarily, or in the ability with which it is governed.

What, I think, is of greater importance, and should concern us all, is the probable effect this increasing substitution of girl labour for that of lads, may have upon our profession generally.

There is no need to submit an elaborate table of statistics to show the rising tendency of committees, and perhaps of librarians to add to the number of lady-workers in Public Libraries. I have roughly glanced through some eighty reports, received during the year, and embracing Public Libraries throughout the country. Twenty-eight of these show upon their staff page the names of female assistants. Fifteen from the provinces, and thirteen from London.

Without soliciting information from each of our libraries it would be difficult to obtain complete and reliable figures upon this question. Many librarians being quite content to let their own name suffice for staff information. The only point, however, that I am desirous of emphasising in connection with these figures is this. A reference to the reports of these self-same libraries of six and seven years ago discloses no mention, in exactly one half the number, of lady assistants.

The view I am forced to take of this question is that if many libraries follow the example of the one I have cited the number of training schools for future male librarians must perforce slowly decrease. The number of coming men will be considerably thinned, and competition for senior positions will be less keen because fewer qualified candidates will be available. A fall in competition invariably entails a corresponding diminution of efficiency. We need a far higher standard in this respect than at present obtains, and to this end our various associations are striving.

Assistants in libraries throughout the country, have, with commendable enterprise formed themselves into an union, not, let it be said, for protection, but that by mutual aid they may so qualify themselves to make even better librarians than their predecessors.

Librarians of Public Libraries in London have, for some years past, combined for the sole purpose of holding amicable gatherings at which new ideas may be ventilated and reforms discussed.

The parent association, when not torn and racked by petty dissension over this or that proposed innovation, strives to the one common end—the raising of the status of the librarian.

These endeavours can only become thoroughly effective by strenuous efforts on the part of librarians to secure, and to train as assistants only those who intend to pursue the calling. This continuity is rarely, if ever, obtained where female labour is employed. In library work the girl rarely rises beyond the assistant stage, at which point she too frequently bars the progression of the other hands.

In this article it would be as unwise and ungracious to introduce any reference to the relative general mental development of the lady and lad assistant as it would be to express any opinion, one way or the other, concerning Schopenhauer's dictum that "When Nature made two divisions of the human race she did not draw the line exactly through the middle." I trust it will also be unnecessary for me to interpolate reasons why, though the number of women-workers

as helps in the library may increase, there is but slight probability that many will obtain chief control of an institution.

I cannot, however, refrain from giving an apropos quotation from a recent article on "The Position of Women in Politics." "Women," the writer says, "are deficient in public spirit. Their judgment is more apt to be vitiated by narrow or personal considerations than is the judgment of men, and their opinions on questions of public morality are more faddy than robust."

The following extract from "The Academy" of December last is a peculiarly satisfactory confirmation of the veracity of the last statement:—

"The literary world was amused by the reports of the lengths to which a committee of lady censors had gone in the exclusion of modern novels from the Boston Public Library on faddist grounds. Such stories as Mr. Henry James's 'The Two Magics'; Miss Mary E. Wilkins's 'The People of Our Neighbourhood'; and Sir Walter Besant's 'The Changeling,' were rejected for frivolous or irrelevant reasons. Mrs. Humphry Ward's 'Eleanor' had been ruled out because 'girls of to-day would cast about for Manistys, as girls of a bygone day did for Rochesters,'"

That women do *not* succeed to chief control is emphasised by a lady writer (Miss Petherbridge) in the current issue of "The English-woman's Year Book."

In referring to the retirement of Miss James, late Librarian to the Peoples' Palace Library, she states "Since she gave up the position no woman has come prominently forward in the library world."

She further says "There are two main reasons for this (a) the very poor remuneration, and the *very limited outlook* that awaits the librarian at the end of her training; (b) "The difficulty of getting trained."

The last obstacle (b) I have endeavoured to show is less difficult now, apparently, than the writer imagined.

The (a) hindrance, *i.e.*, that of insufficient remuneration, Miss Petherbridge in her next paragraph solves in a peculiar way by offering the aspiring lady assistant the following advice. "The first step towards becoming an efficient librarian is to enter some good library as *voluntary worker*." (I am of course responsible for the italics).

One thing is at present obvious, though committees of impecunious libraries welcome the girl whose labour can be obtained at two-thirds the cost of that of a lad, these same committees apparently refrain from promoting the lady to any but subordinate positions.

Is it then a *reductio ad absurdum* to infer that if our lady friends absorb a great number of these junior positions there will ensue a decided dearth of assistants, for the higher posts, who have any pretensions to knowledge of library management and routine?

The best assistant, and indeed the most capable librarian, is he who through successive stages has climbed the ladder of his profession from the first step of the raw recruit to the topmost rung.

At the present moment, in institutions throughout the country there are young men qualifying upon meagre salaries, step by step, with

tardy promotion, to obtain these better positions. The majority of these students have but one aim—to become fully efficient, but one goal—the librarian's chair. They have adopted the calling as a life one, and have chosen it from a deep-rooted love of books, and an earnest interest in literature. They are students, and must read hard, and perforce late, to pass the examinations wisely instituted by the Library Association. Into each of these masculine footprints it is, then, proposed to place the dainty extremity of a transitory girl assistant, leaving, perchance, the position of sub-librarian and senior assistant open to the stronger persuasion.

Can we justly anticipate that many of these lady helps will continue long in the work? It is indubitably proved that they do not.

A few years, and a newer and better profession opens out to the girl, one in which she knows she is secure. In which she can be neither assailed nor excelled, and in which no male competition can enter. The erstwhile lady assistant in the library, then becomes, perhaps, in a truer sense a librarian's assistant.

But the continuity of the work is broken, and a new girl recruit has to be enlisted and trained, only, in turn, to become efficient in what perhaps later proves of no earthly use to her, and woefully deficient in what is probably essentially necessary.

And now what have these libraries with their ranks of girl assistants gained? The library has possibly been spared a few pounds in salaries. Their work perchance has been equal to that which would have been extracted from male assistants. The girls' advocate will say, and we may perhaps admit, that the *library* has not suffered.

Need we take account of any opinion on the part of the librarian? Basking amorously in their sunny smiles, *he* has thought the arrangement not such a *bad* one! But what of the profession generally?

Though we may exonerate this incursion of the girl assistant from doing any serious hurt to either library or librarian, I maintain, for the reasons I have endeavoured to put lucidly, and for the one thousand and one reasons it would be unwise to submit to print, that the *calling* of the public librarian can but suffer grievous harm by the innovation.



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

IN our editorial, "The Get-up of Modern Books," of August last we said: "In Germany they commit the crime—for it is no less—of stapling expensive works, an alternative to stitching only employed with us, as a rule, in pamphlets, and periodicals which are presumed

to be bound as the volumes are completed." This—and we much regret to have to admit it—is not in strict accordance with fact. Only recently there came into our hands a publishers' cloth-bound monograph on the life and work of an R.A., which we were shocked to find was wire-stitched. The discovery was all the more painful from the fact that the work was issued from the offices of *The Art Journal*, the very last place in the country where one would expect to find such "methods of barbarism" practised. In this particular instance, too, the gross injustice to the book-buyer of a style of stitching which ensures re-binding in the shortest period possible is well illustrated, for the book, although it has not been opened much more than half-a-dozen times since it was purchased, already shows signs of buckling down the centre. Nor is that all: the last few pages have torn themselves free of the staples, and a few of the single plates have cracked just above the staples, where the strain of the unnatural bend is greatest, and give every indication of a speedy detachment from the rest of the book. Well, well, we live in a shoddy and a wire-stapling world, my brothers, and it's useless to blink the fact.

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*Apropos* of the above, our Chained Poet has perpetrated the following:—

Life is a volume, so they say,  
 And each page in it is a day.  
 'Tween covers all our days we crowd;  
 The blanket first, and last the shroud.  
 Glued to the "round" we crease and fray  
 Some leaves and sections break away.  
 In paper, cloth, or leather dressed,  
 The shoddiest binding looks the best.  
 Some but as pamphlets they go home,  
 And some a thick and heavy tome.  
 But few, or thick, or thin, I ween,  
 Show binding sound and pages clean.  
 Dog-eared and torn, and rubbed and wan,  
 We meet the Great Librarian.  
 Ranged on His shelves, a battered crew,  
 Fit for the dust-heap, I and you.

FROM the report issued by the governing body of **St. Bride Foundation Institute** the stock of books in the libraries was (August 1, 1901) 16,272 volumes, 1,250 pamphlets. Of this number 9,467 belonged to the General Library, 2,807 to the Passmore Edwards, 1,617 to the Reed collections, and 2,381 volumes and 1,250 pamphlets to the Blades Library. The issues show an increase of 9,161, the daily average being 254; and the number of borrowers also increased slightly. In the Technical Reference Library considerable progress was made up to August, 1901; the Talbot Baines Reed collection of typographical works acquired at the end of 1900 having been shelved

and made accessible, and a new and complete catalogue in classified form of the three technical libraries is being actively pushed forward. On November 20th last, the anniversary day of the institute's opening and of the libraries' inauguration, a conversazione was held, at which Mr. Anthony Hope (the chairman's son) presided, and unveiled a bust to the printer-novelist, Samuel Richardson. To all present on the occasion a handsomely printed and illustrated pamphlet on "Richardson" was distributed. [The librarian informs us that he would be glad to hear from anyone able to throw fresh light on Samuel Richardson's early life.]

THE death is announced of Mr. **Frederick King**, at the age of eighty-four, who is said to have been one of the pioneers of the library movement, as, in 1852, assisted by a committee of five working-men, he secured the adoption of the Public Libraries Act at Oxford, in spite of great opposition from the Corporation.

THE **Public Libraries Acts** have been adopted at Penrith, Flint, Aspatria (Cumberland), Evesham, and Stratford-on-Avon within the past few weeks.

AT Stafford it has been decided not to open the Public Library reading-room on **Sundays** on account of small attendance, while at Bury it has been arranged to open the art gallery and men's reading-room on Sundays from 2 till 5 p.m.

IN the new part of the "English Dialect Dictionary" the word "**Library**" is given as the equivalent of "book," and this use of the word is stated to be common in Durham, Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Oxford, and Essex. The definition given of "library" in its dialect use is: "A book obtained from a lending library; short for library book," and with it we have no quarrel. On the other hand, there is no doubt that the use of "library" in place of "book" will be heard in every municipal library in England. It is quite common for readers to talk about having fines owing on their "library," or wishing to change their "library," and writing postcards to the following effect: "Please renew my library for another fourteen days," so that it is evidently a widespread mistake. The confusion no doubt dates from the advent of public lending libraries, and arose from the blunder of illiterate persons confounding books with the institution in which they are stored.

MR. **WILFRED Barnes**, chief assistant at Battersea Public Libraries, has been appointed sub-librarian of the Lee Branch Library, Lewisham.

ON February 10th, the inhabitants of **Moretonhampstead**, Devon, were placed in full possession of a new free Public Library, presented by Mr. Thomas Bowring, and opened with much rejoicing. The Bowring Library, which occupies a central position in the town, adjoining the quaint old Market House, was designed by Mr. Silvanus Trevail, architect, of Truro, and erected by Mr. Goss, of Torquay. The



building is in the style of the later Tudor Renaissance. Over the central door is a well-defined pediment, and the inscription: "Presented to the town by T. B. Bowring, 1901," while on the frieze under the main cornice appear the words, "The Bowring Library." The beautiful mullioned and transomed windows, the deftly moulded cornices, coped gables, finials and various architectural embellishments go to make a model village library. The building provides on the ground floor an admirable reading-room, 40 ft. by 20 ft., with the usual accommodation for newspapers, magazines, periodicals, and reference books, and lighting, heating, and ventilation are all perfect. There is also a large lending library, fully furnished with book-shelves of the most modern type and latest appliances, including Cotgreave's patent indicators. Mr. Bowring has commenced the library by generously furnishing it with some 2,000 new books, in the selection of which he has displayed much discretion and care, as well as a desire to provide literature that shall satisfy the tastes of the readers. There is also a spacious borrowers' lobby and a librarian's counter. The first floor contains three large rooms for technical instruction classes and games, while on the ground floor is an excellent suite of rooms for the use of the caretaker.

*[Owing to great pressure upon our space, a number of items of news have been reluctantly held over for another number.]*



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE February monthly meeting of this Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, the 10th, when Mr. H. R. Tedder was elected chairman, and presided over a very successful meeting. Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Librarian of the Borough of Hampstead, opened a discussion on "The Question of Net Books," which was a very clear summary of the many strong reasons why Public Libraries should be treated differently as regards discounts to ordinary retail buyers. The discussion was maintained by Messrs. Brown (Finsbury), Kettle (Guildhall), Plant (Shoreditch), Burgoyne (Lambeth), Jast (Croydon), Hanson (of Messrs. Truslove & Hanson), and others, and resulted in the passing of a resolution asking the Council of the Library Association to approach the Publishers' Association, with a view to obtaining a modification of the terms upon which net books are allowed to be sold to libraries by booksellers.

A meeting has been held at Birmingham by representatives of the Public Libraries Committee, the Birmingham (Old) Library, and the

University, to consider the steps to be taken for the reception of the Library Association during its Annual Meeting, which will be held at Birmingham during the week commencing September 22nd next.

Mr. Lawrence Inkster, Borough Librarian, Battersea, has been appointed Honorary Secretary of the Library Association in place of Mr. B. H. Soulsby, resigned.

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#### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this Society was held at the Limehouse Public Library, on Wednesday evening, February 5th, 1902, when Mr. G. H. McCall, Librarian, read a paper, entitled "Literature and Art : a parallel."

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#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

At the January meeting of the Pseudonyms a long discussion on "The Library Rate" took place, during which the following opinions emerged :—

- 1d. isn't enough.
- 2d. would be very much better.
- The time is inopportune for proposing any change.
- An increased rate might deter timid Councils from adopting the Acts.
- Every place of any consequence has already adopted the Acts.
- The rate limit ought to be entirely abolished.
- Somebody ought to do something.



## BOOK ANNOTATION IN AMERICA.

By ERNEST A. BAKER, M.A., *Librarian, Midland Railway Institute, Derby.*

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## III.

## FICTION.

"Fiction, the third great division of letters is so vast a sweep of territory, and withal so marshy in places, that the banded librarians will require much practice in easier campaigns before they organize a force to attack it."

SO speaks Mr. Iles in an article on "Trustworthy Guides to Books." Nevertheless, fiction, the most difficult division to annotate and classify, is, at the present day, by far the most interesting, and it has been boldly attacked by several authors of guide books.

The earliest attempt to compile a descriptive bibliography of prose fiction, on any adequate scale, was the series of "Descriptive Lists of Novels," edited by Dr. W. M. Griswold, and published in the years 1890-94. It was published in sections, with cumulative indexes, each section being devoted to one considerable division, such as Romantic Novels, Novels of American Country Life, Novels of American City Life, Novels of French, Russian, German Life, &c. Each entry is accompanied by an extract or cluster of extracts, from such literary papers as the *Spectator*, *Athenæum*, *Saturday* and *Westminster Reviews*. The editor proffers no critical or other information himself, and, so far as I can see, is governed by no intelligible principle in the selection he makes of other men's opinions. Consequently, it is merely a matter of luck whether you get from Dr. Griswold the information you require as to a book's subject, mode of treatment and literary worth, or a screed of newspaper eulogy in the vaguest, flimsiest and most intangible words. Internal evidence indicates that the extracts were cut from the literary periodicals for a limited number of years, and then sorted out and arranged into a book. This accounts for the haphazard nature of the contents, which, of course, are restricted to such novels or new editions of novels as came out during those years. Such a mode of compilation resulted in many amusing mistakes, contradictory reviews of the same book appearing occasionally under different headings—a book with different titles in England and in America sometimes failing to be identified, and so on. The "List" has no pretensions to completeness, nor even to the limited completeness of a select list. A representative list of the best fiction might be compiled from those that are left out. The classification is of very little use, and the arrangement by titles is a bad one. However, the book shows great industry, and to some extent supplied a want: inadequate as it was, it had success, and deserved to be welcomed.

That part of the "List of Books for Girls and Women and their Clubs," which is devoted to Fiction, and which was separately published in 1895 as a booklet of 160 pages ( $4\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{8}$  in.), at 10 cents, is a

far superior work. It deals with two hundred and fifty American, British and Canadian authors and their principal works, the authors being arranged in one alphabetical order. Each important name is followed, as a rule, by a condensed summary of the author's general characteristics; then comes a list of his principal works, with descriptive notes where such are required. The annotator displays a wide, critical knowledge of English fiction, a sound historical sense, and a catholic taste. A high level is maintained of shrewd, terse and appealing characterisation, objective description and comparative criticism being well balanced in each note. It would be easy to point out omissions: why, for instance, is "Mark Twain" represented by one work only, and that hardly a masterpiece—"The Prince and the Pauper"? Mark Twain is supposed, too, to be an American, and American novelists bulk prominently in the selection. However, there are sound reasons why Americans should predominate in a library for American readers, and the little book, with its unambitious title, hardly claims to be a complete survey of the realm of Fiction.

The great novelists are very well done, without anything very trite being said. On the second-rate novelists sane and intelligent notes are written, such as the following characterisation of "F. Anstey":—

English writer, chiefly of farcical or fantastic stories. He assumes a ludicrous hypothesis, works it out gravely, generally with ingenuity, energy and enjoyable humour. The method resembles that of Mr. F. R. Stockton, but he has less of artistic restraint than his rival.

There is accurate appreciation in a nutshell, and the others are quite as good.

While the object of the book is to give a selection of the best fiction, inferior but very popular works are not ignored. A few representatives of this class, the class which is the root and ultimate origin of the great fiction controversy, "are introduced," says the preface, "with a word of warning." Some of these wholesome words of warning are of a nature to make the hair stand up on the head of those assailants of evaluation who think that descriptive notes should be a mere inventory of contents, without a syllable as to literary manner and method. I regret that I was not acquainted with the little compendium at the time when I was taken to task in *The Library World* for advocating and practising critical as well as analytical annotation, albeit in a very mild and modest way. I tremble to think in what terms of ireful deprecation my humble efforts would have been described, had I ventured to say about our English Miss Southworths and their readers such things as this:—

"Her distortion of truth and fact is wonderful, and her sentimentality is appalling. Nevertheless, her books continue to be devoured by a reading public which would doubtless be wiser and more sensible if it had never learned how to read."

But it is quite right that such things should be said, if only to call the attention of library authorities, who allow bad fiction to usurp space on their shelves to such a waste of educational funds. With

regard to another novelist (save the mark !), who is much read nowadays in England, whatever be the fate of her books in America—viz., Mrs. A. J. Evans-Wilson—the annotator says :—

“Her men are generally alluringly wicked and rich in the beginning, and angels (still rich), and sometimes in the earthly form of clergymen, at the end. The girls, by contrast, are often poor, and always virtuous. Both classes are monuments of learning ; they dispense erudition free of charge with reckless prodigality. In mind, manners, and feelings they are incalculably remote from any known specimens of the race. The author was once very popular, but with the new wisdom of a new generation she has (or ought to have) lapsed into obscurity.”

Lovers of this type of novel are, perhaps, not likely to read such notes, or to benefit by them if they do read them ; but I recommend any English librarians who do not know this excellent little guide to get as many copies as they can find use for, and push them for all they are worth.

The A.L.A. have also published a

List of French Fiction ; compiled and annotated by Mme. Sophie Cornu and William Beer, 1898. Paper, 10 cents ;

while excellent work has been done by certain libraries, such as the Pittsburg, San Francisco and Brooklyn Public Libraries. The Pittsburg Graded Catalogue has already been described ; it incorporates works of fiction in its scheme. Several of the Bulletins also contain useful annotations and other helps to the novel-reader.

A most elaborate catalogue of “English Prose Fiction,” also containing poetry, was issued by the San Francisco Free Library in 1891. It is called “a classified and annotated catalogue” ; its arrangement, however, is rather that of a dictionary catalogue, and the annotation is restricted mainly to lists of contents, class numerals, and such details as the real names of authors, &c. This catalogue is a sort of encyclopædia of fiction. Should you want to read about ancient Assyria, Asia Minor, England as seen by foreigners, Pitcairn Island, Gustavus Adolphus, or the Reformation, you will find long lists of novels under those headings. At the same time, each book appears under title and under author, and there is an index as well. The catalogue, apart from index and introductory matter, covers 300 pages of double columns, and there are auxiliary lists, such as the “Literature” lists, in very small type, which must have entailed great labour and care to compile, the dates of authors’ births and deaths being given in most instances. A very large, well-selected and representative collection of works of prose fiction is embraced by this catalogue.

These examples of fiction annotation are taken somewhat at hazard, but they show, at all events, that American librarians know the educational value of good fiction (using the word educational in its amplest signification), and that they are ready to devote time and thought to help novel-readers to read in the most intelligent and remunerative way.



## NEWS-ROOM ARRANGEMENT.

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By ARNOLD G. BURT, *Sub-Librarian, Fulham Public Libraries.*

IT is a matter upon which there exists some difference of opinion, as to whether the cost and maintenance of a news-room may properly be met out of the proceeds of a limited libraries' rate, which barely suffices for the urgent requirements of other important departments. Be that as it may, very few Public Libraries in this country are without a news-room, and the work incidental to its administration forms no inconsiderable portion of the librarian's duties. There can be no question but that the popularity of a Public Library depends to a very large extent upon its news-room, or that a well-arranged and well-equipped room is of great value to the public. It is therefore obvious that, as most Public Libraries are already in possession of news-rooms, there is profit in discussing the best methods of arrangement, and most practical means of developing them and making them fully accessible and useful.

The recent re-arrangement of a large news-room has given a certain amount of practical experience, which it is the object of the present paper to convey to librarians who are grappling with similar problems. The library in which the arrangements mentioned have been installed, has an inclusive daily average attendance of about 1,500 persons. It consists of lending, reference, and news departments, each one having a separate apartment, which is devoted solely to meeting the needs of its special readers. The news-room provides accommodation for the whole of the periodical publications taken by the library, and it was necessary that they should be displayed in the manner most likely to ensure their convenient and ready use by the public. The room is lofty and well lighted, and measures 72 ft. by 32 ft. The lighting is effected by means of a number of small lights well distributed all over the room, the result being considered far superior to that given by a few, strong, concentrated lights.

The essential considerations affecting the efficiency of a news-room may be grouped under the following heads:—(1) General convenience; (2) systematic arrangement; (3) adequate guiding; and (4) complete oversight.

The first thought should in every case be for the convenience and comfort of the readers, as upon this, to a very great extent, rests the popularity of the institution. Quietness is another necessary quality to be secured in order to promote the general convenience, and we must therefore eliminate, as far as possible, all sources of noise or disturbance. Congestion, a very prolific source of confusion and noise, must be prevented by so arranging the newspapers as to separate and distribute the readers over all the available space. This will prevent local overcrowding, and if the gangways are so arranged as to lead direct from

one part of the room to another, and the passages between the tables are sufficiently wide, the possibilities of disturbance to readers will be reduced to a minimum.

Sufficient space must be allowed for every publication: each should be allotted to a definite position, which is easily accessible and which may be readily indicated. The readers should be allowed as much liberty and freedom from restriction as possible, but at the same time adequate and efficient oversight must be maintained. To this end, no lofty or bulky piece of furniture should be allowed to obstruct the centre of the room or shut off any portion from the view of the staff, and every corner should be wholly under observation from the entrance or from any position in the room.

The following scheme of systematic arrangement was eventually adopted, and whilst describing the lines upon which it has been carried out, I will at the same time enumerate the reasons that led to their adoption.

For exhibiting the newspapers a suitable wooden slope, 30 in. wide was determined upon, which was fixed round the walls on three sides of the room. This wall slope possesses some advantages over the ordinary isolated standards which generally obstruct the view of a considerable portion of the room. It does not obstruct the view to the smallest extent, but leaves the centre of the room quite clear. It is also more economical; the cost is less, and a larger number of papers may be exhibited than upon the same area of separate newspaper stands; the floor space covered is smaller, and, being against the wall, is where it can be most conveniently spared, while judiciously spreading the readers over the largest possible area.

The tables were placed down the centre of the room, with one at each side of the entrance. At the end of the room a periodical rack was fixed, and two sets of detached chairs were placed upon either side.

This arrangement gave the following results:—The newspaper slope allowed ample space for forty-two newspapers, the tables provided for seating ninety-eight persons, the gangway running round the room, and the passages between the tables, gave ample space for the free passage of readers to and from the room; and last, but by no means least, oversight was rendered practically perfect: from any position in the room, the whole being fully in view.

The next point in systematic arrangement concerns the choice of the most suitable and convenient positions for the various periodicals. Three groups were formed: the first for the newspaper slope, consisting of the morning, evening, local, and weekly newspapers; the second, for the tables, comprising the more important periodicals, such as the literary, scientific, social, and trade journals, the magazines and reviews; and the third group, for the rack, including the smaller publications, those published at irregular periods, and those for which there exists no great demand. In some cases it may be considered advisable to keep a few of the higher-class publications at the counter, and issue them upon application. The art magazines, for instance, if

placed upon the open tables are often misused by "artistic" readers, who take the opportunity of "improving" some of the illustrations.

There are advantages in arranging newspapers in one alphabetical sequence to facilitate finding, but this would have the effect of bringing together the London daily morning papers in one portion of the room, and so cause crowding throughout the morning, whilst the other parts would remain comparatively deserted.

Overcrowding, and its consequent inconvenience, is the *bête noir* of orderliness and quietude, and it is mainly upon the arrangement of the newspapers that the distribution of the readers depends. It is impossible to prevent a number of people consulting the *Daily Chronicle* or the *Daily Telegraph*, for instance, at one and the same time; and those papers placed together would prove a very fruitful source of congestion, and it is this local crowding that must at all costs be avoided. To get over these difficulties it was decided to adopt the following arrangement:—A morning paper is placed first, next an evening paper, then either a provincial or weekly paper; therefore each paper of similar character is separated by two others. The advantages of this arrangement are obvious. In the early part of the day, when the demand for the morning papers is at its height, both sides of them are practically clear, because the evening papers are not then in great request, and the provincial papers do not usually arrive until mid-day. This applies also to the evening papers; by the time they are issued, the demand for the morning papers has subsided. The provincial and weekly papers are never sought after to the same extent as the others—in London at least—although they are used considerably, it is a steady kind of flow rather than the rush to which the others are subjected.

By this arrangement there is also a gain on the score of economy, as it allows the papers to be placed closer together than would be otherwise advisable, a space of from 3 in. to 4 in. between each paper being all that is absolutely necessary. A further economy of space may be effected by two papers which are published at different periods being allotted to one position. Take, for example, *The Stage* and *The Era*, both in great request by the same class of people. *The Stage*, which is issued on Thursday morning, should, when received, be placed upon the slope; for the first two days it is in great request, after that, however, the demand falls off, and it may very well give place to *The Era*, which is published upon Saturday, when *The Stage* can be placed upon one of the tables. On the following Thursday *The Era* would take the place of the old number of *The Stage* upon the table, while the new issue would occupy the position upon the slope. The Sunday papers (the news-room is open on Sundays) might also be given positions upon the slope for that day, and give way on Monday morning to the papers they had displaced; they can then be put upon the miscellany table, in the rack, or may be had upon application at the counter.

In some libraries the magazines and reviews are placed in a separate room, and the periodicals fixed to small stands. This plan



is, of course, the best ; but, as far as the library in question was concerned, inadequacy of space placed this method entirely out of consideration.

The question of distributing the readers is not of such vital import in the case of magazines as in that of newspapers, spreading the readers is more a matter of the number and the class of papers placed upon the tables than of their positions. Eight very popular papers would prove quite sufficient for one table, whilst twelve or even fourteen periodicals in less demand can be conveniently accommodated upon another ; therefore the number of papers placed upon each table must be determined by the demand for them.

Sometimes the practice is adopted of attaching the periodicals to their allotted tables by means of cords. Whilst recognising the desirability of ensuring the paper being kept to its proper table, the advantages are, in my mind, far outbalanced by the disadvantages. In the first place, the cords are very liable to become entangled. When that occurs, impatient readers are not particularly considerate or over-gentle in their efforts to disentangle them, and the covers are apt to suffer. Then, again, there are, as a rule, more periodicals placed upon a table than there are chairs round it, and this method practically limits the number of papers to the seating accommodation ; and, should every chair at any table be occupied, other readers would be debarred from consulting the periodicals not in use, as the cords would not permit of their removal.

To be unable to move the papers is also the cause of other inconveniences. If the light at any table be rather inadequate, a person whose sight may be somewhat defective is unable to take the paper to a better-lighted spot ; consequently, he goes away dissatisfied, and in going, probably leaves at the counter a few remarks about the cords in particular and the library in general. The question of undesirable neighbours also occurs at this point, and should a person—well, not too clean—take a seat at the next paper, the reader has either to endure his company or walk away leaving the paper unfinished.

With regard to the system of arranging the magazines, there are several methods that present themselves. Alphabetical order—as usual, the first arrangement to suggest itself—looks certainly the simplest, and seems, until investigated, a very reasonable and adequate method of dealing with this matter, as readers would be able to find any one periodical with comparative ease. This, however, is not everything to be achieved. Such an arrangement would be the cause of more movement in the room than is desirable, or even necessary. A builder, for instance, wishing to gather information in connection with his trade would have to go to three distinct parts of the room to consult *The Building News*, *The Engineer*, and *Timber* ; therefore this method cannot prove conducive to quietness. And what a heterogenous collection of papers each table would contain ! Papers that had no affinity one with another, that were diametrically opposite in every respect, would, simply by accident of alphabetical sequence, be brought together.

An arrangement which would separate into groups all weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies, would lead to precisely similar results, with precisely similar inconveniences.

The most promising scheme, and the one finally adopted, was to classify the papers and place them together under their subjects. Of course no close classification is possible, nor is it necessary, a rough classification is all that can be accomplished. The immediate result was that kindred publications and papers upon similar subjects were located side by side; for example, all trade papers were apportioned to their allotted tables, a third or fourth table accommodated scientific papers, a fifth literary, a sixth educational, and so forth. This scattered the readers over the whole of the room, and, to a certain extent, classified them too, it brought the literary readers together, the church workers together, the tradesmen together, and so on, an advantage rather than otherwise, as kindred spirits have more consideration one for another than for those whose natures and manners are entirely opposite. Then again, each class of reader does not require the same amount of oversight, also our builder has the papers he wishes to consult—*The Building News*, *The Engineer*, and *Timber*—close at hand; when he takes his seat at the specified table he has no occasion to move until he has gathered all the information he requires, and any method that prevents motion, is a distinct step towards the quietness and stillness we wish to preserve.

The periodicals rack, the last to be arranged, is designed to hold a considerable number of papers whilst occupying a small amount of room. *Multum in parvo* would prove an excellent definition. The sole object of placing it in the room is to economise space, it might, with truth, be called the overflow, for it contains those papers for which there is no room upon the tables or upon the slopes, and those whose subjects, or methods of treating them, are of comparative trivial importance, and whose irregularity of publication does not warrant more important positions being assigned to them.

In considering the arrangement of these "Rack" papers, it may at once be said that nothing will be gained in attempting to scatter the readers. Each paper must be taken away to be read, therefore the reader will choose whichever seat he prefers, most probably the nearest one, so congestion may be left out of the question. We have to determine upon an arrangement that will be convenient and readily comprehended by the public, and, on the whole, one inclusive alphabetical sequence will be found as convenient as any. The contents should be spread over the entire rack, with spaces left for accessions between each letter, and, if possible, between sections of a letter.


A few chairs, placed near the rack and away from the tables, will be found very useful: two sets of chairs tied at the backs in this manner  and placed upon each side of the rack, has proved of great value: they must not be loose, as that would prove a source of noise and untidiness. The papers, not being enclosed in covers, can be conveniently held in the hands of the readers, and the chairs, situated where they are, not only relieve the tables, but, as there is no

table at hand whereon to leave the papers, they are more likely to be replaced in the rack.

A news-room, however extensive its contents may be, or however elaborately it may be equipped, will not yield its full value to the public unless complete and adequate "guiding" is provided. Full direction is as essential for the papers in the library as is the catalogue for its books. It is clearly evident that, having allotted a special place to each paper, those places should be properly indicated, for, lacking this, the news-room is incomplete. From the readers' point of view, an ill-arranged room well guided is far superior to a well-arranged room with no guides. If I may so express myself, in one, the reader can see without looking, and in the other he may look without seeing. The guiding therefore proves to be the climax; by its completeness, or inadequacy, it will make or mar the whole of the work, and the amount of convenience afforded to the readers is the basis upon which the success of our efforts must be judged.

All properly constructed guides and lists must be elastic, and should allow of expansion or contraction in any direction; each location mark must be such as can be changed without disturbance to others; in fact, lists, titles and location marks of any description, each and everyone must be perfectly adjustable.

To satisfactorily accomplish thorough guiding, the full contents of the room must be prominently shown, and the reader must be directed to any specified paper, or papers, in the most expeditious manner.

The primary step towards this would be to prepare a general list which should comprise all periodicals taken by the library. This list must be full and complete, and must contain not only the title of every publication, but it must indicate the position each one occupies in the room, and so form a key to the whole system.

The titles may be arranged in order of publication, so bringing them together under their headings, "dailies," "weeklies," "monthlies," and "quarterlies"; but a simpler plan is to arrange them in one alphabetical sequence irrespective of the period of publication. Both schemes would give the same amount of information, but inasmuch as one alphabetical sequence can be more speedily consulted than three, or more, the latter plan must be considered the most expeditious.

It must not be considered that having completed this list, and given the location of each paper, that the task is finished, it is certainly the most important part of the guiding, but is far from being the completion; not only would it prove inadequate, but, being the only guide, it would create more movement, and consequently more noise than is desirable, by causing the readers to be continually passing to and from various parts of the room in order to consult the list. The position of the papers should be pointed out by as many means as possible, therefore the general guide must be supplemented by what may be called local guides, which must be placed in prominent positions wherever required; each publication being clearly indicated thereon as to its position. The title of each paper upon the slope must be placed above it; the papers in the rack must each have their

titles at the places assigned to them ; the papers upon the tables must have their titles lettered boldly upon both sides of their covers ; a list of the contents of each table must be placed upon each table ; and a list of the papers in the rack must be placed upon the rack itself.

The method of indicating the locations of the papers placed upon the slope is as follows :—Each fitting is numbered, and the title of the paper appears upon the general list bearing the number of its fitting prefixed by the letter S=slope : it therefore follows that the paper whose title is marked S15 is the fifteenth paper upon the slope. Above each newspaper a tablet should be fitted bearing the title printed in a bold distinct type, large enough to be read from the opposite side of the room. Block letters are best for this purpose, fancy lettering should be discouraged. This tablet should be moveable, in order to render it an easy matter to alter the location of the paper if necessary, or, if the practice of interchanging two weekly papers is adopted, simply substituting one heading for another is all that is necessary. A simple method of arranging for perfect adjustability with name tablets, is to have a groove, about one or two inches deep, ploughed in the top of the slope, in which the tablets can be moved along to any position. An alternative method is to groove the tablets and let them slide along a beading rising from the top of the slope.

The method adopted for guiding the reader to the contents of the tables is similar to that of the slope ; but, whereas only one paper, or at most two, can be indicated, as say S15, a number of papers may be located to, say T10 ; but that is not a matter of great inconvenience, to direct the reader to the table upon which the desired paper is to be found, is as near as we can hope to get without the paper being fixed in position. Each table is numbered, with the number prominently displayed, and also lettered upon every periodical cover placed upon the particular table. The titles of the papers appear upon the general list, and their place-numbers prefixed by the letter T = table, are added ; so that any paper indicated as T10 is to be found upon table number 10.

Each periodical is enclosed in a stout half-pigskin reading-case, both sides of which bear the title of the paper, the name of the library, and also a request to the reader in the following terms :

“PLEASE LEAVE THIS ON TABLE 10.”

The number is not printed upon the cover with the rest of the lettering, but is stamped in gold upon a label of very thin leather, which can be fastened to the cover with fish glue or some other strong adhesive. This is done in order to give adjustability to the location ; so that, if found desirable, any paper can be transferred to another table by simply removing the old number and substituting a new one.

A local indication is provided by a framed list conspicuously placed upon each table. This enables the reader to ascertain the actual periodicals belonging to the table whilst seated, and, as all the publications are classified, practically shows all available papers of a similar character.

The periodicals rack is constructed to hold a number of papers in a small space. The papers are placed in rows, and each row is numbered, and that number is placed in the general list against the title of each paper located in that row, prefixed by the letter R = rack. Therefore a title marked R21 tells the reader that the paper is to be found in the twenty-first row of the rack, and, as the papers are arranged in alphabetical sequence, the numbering of each row is sufficient guidance. To ensure the papers being replaced in the correct positions, the titles of the papers must be placed beside them. This is accomplished by means of a number of small metal clips having grooves at the top and bottom which form a channel for the reception of the title, and a celluloid cover, to keep the lettering clean, is slid into position above it. This has proved very efficacious, both in regard to adjustability and neatness.

The complete contents of the rack should be conspicuously shewn upon the rack itself, with each title marked with the number of the shelf. The titles may be arranged in this in alphabetical order in columns, or they may be placed in lines corresponding with the rows of the rack: both arrangements are equally suitable, for, should the system be adjustable, an alphabetical sequence is secured, the only difference being that in one the titles would be placed perpendicular, and in the other horizontal.

If it be deemed advisable to somewhat restrict the general use of any periodicals, such as art magazines or medical journals, and only to issue them to the public upon application, there need be no difficulty experienced in notifying them of the fact. The titles should be included in the general list marked C = counter, and no other guiding is necessary.

An important adjunct to the guiding of the room is to display a plan drawn upon a scale large enough to show clearly the whole scheme of arrangement. It must indicate the location and number of each table, and specify the class of the publications allotted to it, and it must point out the tables upon which directories and time-tables are located.

The following key, which speaks for itself, should be placed at the foot of the general list, and will give an explanation of all the location marks that the list contains:—

**KEY.**

**S = SLOPE.**

**T = TABLE.**

**R = RACK.**

**C = COUNTER.**

One word more. The librarian is the servant of the public, and, to a certain extent, their teacher: he must be broad-minded, have an open mind, and in his thoughts and actions be absolutely impartial: his collection of papers must be even, well balanced, and carefully selected; every phase of thought, every sect, every trade should be represented, and the whole fully elucidated. This is a high ideal, perhaps it is a dream. There are innumerable—perhaps endless—difficulties to be surmounted, but it is in striving for the unattainable that perfection is more nearly approached.



## APPRAISAL OR DESCRIPTION?

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### SOME EXAMPLES.

THE enterprise of Messrs. Newnes, Ltd., has given us an opportunity of making practical application of the various theories of book criticism or annotation which have been advocated from time to time in *The Library World*. Messrs. Newnes have sent for notice the four novels described below, and these we propose to treat in the manner of a critical evaluator and a descriptive annotator, in order to display clearly and fairly the merits or demerits of each method of annotation. The books comprise three new novels and one reprint of an older novel, and all are distinguished by good taste and quality in their general production, while the whole of them are books which may fitly be added to the shelves of any Public Library. If any exception were desirable, we should advise the exclusion of "Jim the Penman," as much on account of its style as because of anything questionable in its matter. On the other hand, the subject is a popular one, and has become well known in a dramatised form, and the book therefore fills a niche of its own.

The First Men in the Moon. By H. G. Wells. Illustrated. London: Newnes, Ltd. 1901. viii + 342 pp. 6s.

The Manchester Man. By Mrs. G. Linnæus Banks. London: Newnes, Ltd. 1902. 218 pp. 6d.

Tregarthen's Wife: a Cornish story. By Fred M. White. Illust. London: Newnes, Ltd. 1901. x + 373 pp. 6s.

"Jim the Penman." The life story of one of the most astounding criminals that have ever lived. By Dick Donovan. London: Newnes, Ltd. 1901. vi + 378 pp. 6s.

It is not the purpose of this note to enter deeply into the pros and cons of the annotation question, but rather to show plainly what happens under a rigid and logical application of each of the principal methods. Of the leading methods at present advocated there are three which stand forth somewhat conspicuously because of the literature

written in their support. There is, first, the so-called "Evaluation" method, which is directed towards ascertaining the worth of a book and its place in the literature of its subject, by means of criticism applied on scientific lines. Next comes the "Descriptive" method, which confines itself strictly to annotation of the contents, scope and bibliography of the book, leaving criticism of style or matter to be applied by the user. Finally, there is the "Quotation" or Allibonesque method, which consists of the addition to book titles of critical or descriptive summaries which have been selected from literary or other journals, and need not, therefore, represent actual examination by the evaluator or annotator himself. There is a good deal to be said in support of every one of these methods. Each has distinct merits, but, in our opinion, only the descriptive method should be adopted by libraries or other institutions issuing catalogues, which are identified with the institution rather than with the compiler. Criticism on the part of a library authority should be limited to the selection of books, which, of course, means also the exclusion of those considered worthless. It also means that only the very best books are selected, so that there is no need to *grade* them as has been proposed. Considering the extraordinary mutations of critical judgment in the past, it would be very unwise for any public institution to become responsible for evaluations or criticisms which in the long run will be found to possess neither permanence nor value. Every student of literature knows the extravagant praise which was lavished on certain old-time classics which are now as dead as Moses, both as regards popularity and literary reputation. The modern librarian also knows of similar instances of misjudgment happening within the past few years; while there are many parallel cases of masterpieces being neglected and scorned by one generation, and applauded and appreciated by succeeding generations. The lesson taught by these examples is simply that criticism or evaluation is not only likely to be unreliable, but it is certain to be evanescent and unsatisfactory if put forward as the opinion of a public authority.

The same objection does not apply so strongly to the evaluations or criticisms of private individuals, issued as commercial speculations, and not as publications forming a direct charge upon the public rates of a locality. In this case one can dissent from, or agree to, the writer's opinions, as disposition may direct. They represent that individual's views, and are themselves susceptible of evaluation on the part of the reader, so that one can accept or reject their authority or accuracy according to the state of one's mood or digestion. The selected evaluation or annotation is only of value if it consists of descriptive matter which agrees with the results of the librarian's own examination. If it does not fulfil this condition, it is no better than the brief laudatory snippets from reviews with which publishers swell out their advertisements. In any case the "Allibonesque" method of annotation is not one which, in our opinion, is worth comparing with the other two methods, and we shall therefore refrain from giving specimens of its application. With these few remarks, and without

more ado, we subjoin our specimens of book annotation according to the methods of the Critical Evaluator and the Descriptive Annotator:—

#### CRITICAL EVALUATION.

WELLS, H. G. *The First Men in the Moon*. Illust. 1901.

A *voyage imaginaire* by this well-known exponent of the pseudo-scientific phantasy. It recounts with a Defoe-like *vraisemblance* a voyage to the moon. Mr. Wells' early training has enabled him to make effective use of a medley of economics and entomology. The book ends somewhat weakly with an anticlimax in which farce and Hertzian radiation *à la* Marconi are ingeniously combined. The book is less satisfactory than some of its author's other efforts in the same *genre*.

BANKS, Mrs. G. Linnæus. *The Manchester Man*. 1902.

The career of a smug and irreproachable foundling from his aquatic cradle, through a virtuous apprenticeship, to all the pompous dignity of a Manchester magnate. The author has made a carefully accurate study of old-time Manchester biography, history and local customs. The hero marries, in turn, both heroines, and no doubt finally, although the story does not say so, became an alderman, a Sunday school superintendent, and feoffee of Chetham's Hospital.

WHITE, Fred. M. *Tregarthen's Wife: a Cornish story*. Illust. 1901.

Modern sentimental tale of a rich and pushful American girl who goes to her ancestral home in England, and upsets the primitive form of patriarchal government which she finds in force. The triumph of American "horse-sense" over the silly ideals of effete England, by imposing the seductions of seaside lodging-house keeping upon a people hitherto engaged in flower culture and fishing.

MUDDOCK, J. E. *Dick Donovan*. "Jim the Penman." The life story of one of the most astounding criminals that have ever lived. 1901.

A sensational tale of forgery in its most sordid and criminal form, written in a style, which may be gathered from the doubtful grammar of the title-page.

#### DESCRIPTIVE ANNOTATION.

WELLS, H. G. *The First Men in the Moon*. Illust. 1901.

An inventor discovers a substance which overcomes the force of gravitation, and from it constructs a machine which enables the moon to be reached. The inhabitants (or Selenites) are discovered to be a highly organised community of mechanical experts, dwelling in the interior of the moon, ruled by a monarch and regulated by a minute system of expert specialism. In some respects this idea of a great community living in the interior of a planet has been anticipated by Holberg, in his "Niels Klim" (1741), in which a similar community is discovered in the interior of the earth, with a corresponding inaction of gravitation, as a subsidiary episode.

BANKS, Mrs. G. Linnæus. *The Manchester Man*. 1902. [Reprint.]

Jabez Clegg, a foundling, rescued in 1799, is adopted by a poor tailoring industry a great Manchester magnate. He becomes a member of Chetham's Hospital, the Peterloo massacre of 1819, and localities as of the merchant families of Manchester.



WHITE, Fred. M. *Tregarthen's Wife: a Cornish story.* Illust. 1901.

Tale of an island in North Cornwall, near Tintagel, at the end of the 19th century. It is ruled in patriarchal fashion by an owner holding almost despotic powers under an old charter, who has allowed the inhabitants, flower growers and fisher-folks, to starve when harvests failed. An American lady, who is the direct heir to the island and a descendant of the old family, marries the owner and introduces numerous reforms.

MUDDOCK, J. E., *Dick Donovan, pseud.* "Jim the Penman." The life story of one of the most astounding criminals that have ever lived. 1901.

A skilful forger, who imitates bankers' letters of credit for thousands of pounds, and defies the efforts made to detect him till he is betrayed by a confederate. The scene is laid in London and Paris about 1845-49, and the story is based upon the exploits of a real criminal whose life-history has also been made the basis of a popular play.



## SOME NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS.

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BURY.



THE style of architecture adopted by the architects of the Bury Library and Art Gallery (Messrs. Woodhouse & Willoughby, of Manchester) is English Renaissance of the eighteenth century. The building has a frontage to Moss Lane of 110 ft., and to Silver Street of 105 ft., and comprises three complete stories—basement, ground, and first floors—with a sub-basement for the heating and ventilating plant.

The building is divided into two sections—the one devoted to the libraries and reading-rooms, and the other to the art galleries.

The Moss Lane entrance is that dedicated to art, and in ascending the stone steps we notice the bronze tablet commemorating the foundation-stone laying by O. O. Wrigley, Esq., on April 29th, 1899.



Passing into the Sculpture Hall, wherein has been placed a marble tablet in recognition of the gift of pictures by the Wrigley family, we ascend the main staircase to the upper hall and art galleries, which are arranged in a sequence of six handsome rooms, the sizes varying from 27 ft.  $\times$  33 ft. to 27 ft.  $\times$  61 ft. The floors are parquet. Provision is also made for a curator's office and for ladies' and gentlemen's cloak-rooms, lavatories, &c., and rooms for the repairing of pictures, &c. A large hoist connects the loading way with the galleries.

The upper hall and four of the rooms contain the Wrigley collection of engravings, oil and water colour pictures, which are valued at £100,000, and include some of the very choicest examples of Turner, Landseer, Collins, Linnell, Riviere, Watts, Bonheur, Cooper, Cox, Foster, Frère, Müller, Webster, Constable, Faed, Hunt, Goodall, Ward, Taylor, Poole, Paton, Mulready, and Maclise.

The engravings are of Turner's "Liber Studiorum"—an exceedingly choice set, most of first "states"—and of Sir Joshua Reynolds.

There are also costly examples of the art of Wedgwood on view. One of the other galleries contains the gifts of Messrs. Kenyon, Whitehead and Taylor of pictures by Keeley Halswell, Long, Nicol, Moreau and Hornell. Spring or autumn exhibitions will be held in due course.



The Silver Street entrance to the department devoted to the libraries and reading-rooms is entered by a vestibule 12 ft. wide. This vestibule opens direct into the borrowers' space, which is 40 ft. wide. To the right are the ladies' room and reference library, and to the left admission to the men's reading and periodical room. Separate conveniences are

arranged on each side of the entrance doors, and at the back of the counter is the large book-store and librarian's office. In the basement are the file-rooms and book-stores, which can be entered by means of a spiral staircase, by the side of which is a small hoist. It is proposed to fit up this large store as a juvenile library, with separate entrance for the borrowers from the rear of the building.

The lending library contains about 10,000 volumes, which are stored in oak bookcases—in fact, all the furniture is of dark fumed oak. The system of issuing is by means of the "Cotgreave" Indicator.



The reading-room is well supplied with newspapers on stands, and the magazines are placed on tables. A directory stand, with most of the directories and time-tables, is placed here also.

The ladies' room is furnished with tapestry curtains and carpet, and couches upholstered in velvet. Besides the magazine tables there are a writing-table, hat, cloak and umbrella stands, and a couple of plant stands. Mrs. Davies, of Rhiwlas, Bury, gave £1,000 for the provision of this room, and a bronze tablet records the gift.

The cost of the building is not far short of £40,000, including interior fittings and fire apparatus. The lighting is by means of electricity, the

heating by hot air, and the ventilating on the "Plenum" system.

The building was opened by the Right Hon. the Earl of Derby, K.G., G.C.B., on October 9th, 1901, with considerable *éclat*, the ceremonies extending over two days.

The *Builder* of October 12th gives a large view of the premises and the ground plans. The sculptured friezes are the work of J. J. Millson, of Manchester. They represent Literature, Art, Memory, &c.

The *Bury Times* of same date issued a special supplement, with illustrations of exterior and interior, and portraits of Lord Derby, chairman, deputy chairman, and organising librarian and curator, who is Mr. Archibald Sparke, late of the Cardiff, Kidderminster and Carlisle Libraries.

The catalogues of pictures and books were ready for the opening, and the former contains a memoir of Mr. Wrigley, by the curator.

**THE DANGERS OF DICTIONARY CATALOGUING.***By* **DIOGENES THE TUB-THUMPER.**

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**I**N common with a majority of the younger generation of librarians, the writer has for long looked upon the dictionary catalogue as occupying an unassailable position, in which it has been secured and consecrated by the approval and applause of generations of librarians, and an uncomplaining public. The occasional assaults upon the integrity of this form of catalogue, which various prominent librarians have made from time to time, never struck me as anything more serious than the theoretical objections of clever men to a particular kind of method which did not commend itself to their judgment. So have I regarded, and allowed to pass by unconsidered, the various statements concerning alleged shortcomings in dictionary catalogues made by such respected librarians as Dr. Garnett, Mr. Fortescue, Mr. Frank Campbell, Mr. Jast, the late Mr. Edward Edwards, Mr. J. D. Brown, Mr. J. H. Quinn and other equally competent and distinguished men. From this condition of complacent security I have been thoroughly aroused by the examination of a "Supplementary Catalogue of the Lending Department" at —, recently issued by a Library Committee which need not be more particularly named. It will suffice for purposes of identification if I state that a defunct minor philosopher has described the inhabitants of the town from which the catalogue hails, as the most "sagacious bipeds" in the United Kingdom, and, furthermore, that they require larger hats than any other community in Europe. Whether this latter condition arises from the general existence of swelled heads or excess of brain-power, it is not for a humble outsider to decide; certain it is, however, that every citizen who uses this "Supplementary Catalogue" will require all his sagacity and all his brain-power to determine whether he is handling a puzzle or a kaleidoscope.

The catalogue is in many respects a complete text-book to the shortcomings of the dictionary form, and proves conclusively most of the statements which have been made as to the facilities given for constant blundering by the apparent easiness of the method of compilation, its form being a plain invitation to the perpetration of mistakes. The combination in one series of so many different kinds of entries—author, subject, title, class, form, series, reference, &c.—requiring enormous powers of co-ordination and concentration, leads inevitably to the confusion of readers and the hopeless muddling of the the catalogue: and so on, examples of shortcomings are given throughout the whole catalogue. As regards the dangers arising from the comparative ease of compilation, I don't think I ever saw a catalogue so crowded with misprints of every kind. On one page: 'Todmaster for Todhunter, Fitzgerlad for Fitzgerald, then Burr for Barr, Jusseraad for Jusserand, Biography for Bibliography,

Lady Van's Son for Lady Jean's Son, Red Book for Red Rock, Weberweg for Ueberweg, Phamphlets (of course!), Ross—"Helenore, or the unfortunate shepherdess," for "fortunate shepherdess" (!), Norfill for Morfill, Carnegie—"The Standard of Wealth," instead of "Gospel of Wealth"; and so on all through the book. Literals, errors in punctuation, and wrong founts simply swarm, and the print looks as if it had been read and corrected by someone who never saw galley slips before. The number of blind references leading to nothing is simply appalling: "Great Britain, *see* England and Colonies"; but at "England" and "Colonies" *nil*. "Bible. *See also* Commandments, Resurrection"; but at "Commandments" *nil*. At "Resurrection," however, we find Tolstoi's novel! At the heading "Arts, Useful," there are no fewer than eight such blind references, one to "House-keeping" being double.

Whenever the compiler has been in doubt about a book he has not troubled to assign it to any subject-heading. Thus, Amari's "La Guerra del Vespro Siciliano" is neither under Italy, Sicily, nor Sicilian Vespers, or Vespro Siciliano, but only at "Italian Language." Other works in Italian, like one by Caracciolo, are not at that heading. Under "French Language," "German Language," and "Italian Language," the entries are arranged in a horrible jumble of titles, leading to such hopeless index-words as, Das, Die, Es, Il, La, Les, Le, De, Du, &c., while at "Latin Language" an author arrangement is adopted. Some most extraordinary errors exist which seem quite inexplicable. Under "Baker, Ja," we have "The Cardinal's Page," but at the title-entry this is transformed into "Cardinal's Snuff-box, Baker, James"! As Harland's "Cardinal's Snuff-box" is not in the catalogue, it is difficult to account for this extraordinary feat of mental gymnastics, which does not stand alone, as witness the Carnegie blunder, already quoted. At large subject-headings like Africa, &c., the confusion is dreadful. Sometimes books are placed under their specific heads in accordance with the principles of dictionary cataloguing; at other times they are placed under some large inclusive head of the nature of a main class. Thus, under "Africa, Equatorial," appears one book on the Niger, with a reference to Nigeria. At "Nigeria" there is one entry, and at "Niger River," if you don't miss it, there are two other entries, without any reference back to Africa. Why, in the name of common-sense, could these four books on the same subject not be assembled in one place, instead of being scattered over three places? The catalogue simply swarms with examples of this confusion between general and specific heads, and, unless a whole number of *The Library World* were devoted to the purpose, it would be impossible to do justice to the humours, eccentricities, woeful mistakes and ignorant flounderings of this catalogue.

At one time I thought that the errors and badness of this particular specimen of a dictionary catalogue were not arguments against a catalogue in that form *properly constructed*. But my mind is disposed to reject this loophole as a mere subterfuge. While we are all waiting for the model catalogue on dictionary lines, as it *ought to be done*,

there are dozens of atrocities, similar to the one which has been my text, being issued in various parts of the country, and it is becoming more and more evident that the form, method and rules of the dictionary catalogue are utterly inimical and opposed to the idea of perfection. My conclusion is that it is impossible to produce a satisfactory and logical dictionary catalogue. Its peculiar form is at once too easy and too difficult. It may seem paradoxical, but it is nevertheless true, that while any clerk can compile a medley of error, confusion and uselessness, such as I have described, it would *kill* a genius to attempt to produce a dictionary catalogue so logical, so accurate, and so completely co-ordinated as to please at once the man in the street and the librarian in his office. For these reasons I renounce my allegiance to the dictionary catalogue, which I consider as being at once too simple and too intricate for ordinary human comprehension.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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**T**HE *Croydon Reader's Index* for January and February contains the usual list of additions to the lending libraries, a list of technical additions to the lending and reference libraries, and a reading list on the Housing of the Working Classes. The form of entry in the lists is as clear as can be; apparently no part of the title has been left out which goes to explain the nature of the book catalogued; and full imprint information is given. The annotation to non-fictional works are, as we have pointed out before, unequalled for the amount of information they convey in a small space. Here is a specimen entry:—

**Meakin Budgett.** The Land of the Moors. 83 *il.*  
*Mp.* 1901. ... .. C T64

Mr. M. was for some time ed. of "The Times of Morocco," and has written almost solely on M. This v. is in three pts.: (1) Natural and physical, embracing physical geography, mineral resources, flora and fauna; (2) Political, describing the eight "open ports," six "closed ports," "all new ground," the Imperial cities Mequinez, Morocco and Fez, the "Sacred" and "Minor" towns, Spanish Possessions, and "M. Beyond the Atlas"; (3) Experimental, which is Mr. M.'s "all too brief story of some of his own travels and experiences."—*Literary World.*

The fiction annotations are, on the other hand, perhaps too full. The reading list has been compiled by Mr. Robert Stevenson, and is comprehensive, well-arranged and capably annotated. It seems to have been called for by local discussions on the question. The title page and index to the volume for 1901 are given as a supplement to this number.

The final Report of the **Penge** Public Library Commissioners for the year ended March, 1901, is rather belated. The total number of volumes in stock in the lending and reference departments is 8,401. The daily average issue is good, being 279. There are 3,323 borrowers.

**Bootle** sends us a prospectus of its free lectures. All of them will be illustrated with lantern slides, and with books on the subjects dealt with.

We have received the **Nottingham Library Bulletins** for November, December, January. They present no unusual features, with the exception of an article on Wright, the Nottingham translator of Dante and Homer, and Jottings about Books and Authors. Some of the jottings are, in our opinion, useless. One of them reproduces from *The Gem* a description of Marie Corelli's person: we should like to ask how such information can contribute to the intellectual welfare of the library's readers. Personalalia is objectionable in any paper; it is peculiarly so in a library publication.

**Hove Public Library.** Supplementary Catalogue of Books Added to the Lending Department, February, 1897, to June, 1901. 172 pp. 1901. 4d.

This list, in arrangement, and the variety of type which distinguishes author, subject, and form entries, adheres to the plan of the general catalogue published in 1897. We learn that "some care has been given to the dates of geographical works and to the subjects of biography, and annotations have been made in cases where titles seemed obscure." The annotations, so far as we have been able to judge, are sufficient for the elucidation of the most obscure titles. But it is a pity that the time and funds were not found to annotate the catalogue throughout, because, had this been done, we should have had the pleasure of reviewing as good a catalogue as we have seen for some time. The variety of type is at once pleasing and helpful. The following is a sample subject entry:—

CANTERBURY. Historical Memorials of Canterbury, by  
**Dean A. P. Stanley.** *III.* 1895. G 3631.

The landing of Augustine. The murder of Becket. Edward  
the Black Prince. Becket's shrine.

To our thinking this is as clear as possible, and needs but one improvement. The author's name is in the wrong place; it should come before the title, as it is the second important word in the arrangement of the entry. In cases where several entries follow a subject entry, the author does come before the title.

#### CHINA.

**Douglas, Robert K.** China. *III.* [Story of the Nations series.] 1899. G 4212.

**Mac Gowan, J.**

And so forth. But the borrowers of Hove Library can have no reason whatever to grumble at this excellent little list.

The 31st Report of the **Leeds** Libraries, 1900-1901, is to hand. Issues : Branch libraries, 450,327 against 395,307 in the previous years; Central, 360,365 against 332,417 ; Reference, 126,159 against 166,448. Highly satisfactory, as the librarian says. The reference Library is being reclassified on the Dewey system. We learn that during the year "there has been a distinct improvement in the quality of fiction read, which has been brought about largely through the staff making good reading attainable in every available way." This is new, distinctly new. It does not matter a brass farthing whether the percentage of fiction is higher or the reverse. No, but its quality goes up; there's the rub. Perhaps some explanation of the weird statement we have quoted may be found in the fact that Fiction, Poetry, and the Drama, are lumped together to form a huge class E. As the classification is being changed in the reference department, we imagine that the same will be done as soon as possible in the lending. Classes like E, fiction, poetry and drama, and D, science, art, and technology, are sadly out of date.

We have received from **Nottingham** a supplementary author-list of Fiction, Poetry, and Drama, 1894-1901, which, as it is reprinted from the *Library Bulletin*, it is not necessary to further notice here. A Class-List of Theology and Church History is also sent. On the whole this doubtless serves its purpose of listing the works contained in the theological section of the library, but an adequate guide to them it certainly is not. We object moreover to the term "class-list" in this connection. A class-list, we take it, is a list in which the entries are arranged according to topic on the basis of some fixed system of classification; and to make this arrangement meet the requirements of all users certain subsidiary indexes are necessary. The list before us is almost purely an author-list of Theology, for, apart from series entries, and the title-entries in the case of anonymous works, the only entries are author-entries. There are no references whatever to subjects. The compiler seems to have followed some such train of reasoning as this in naming his compilation:—This is a *list* of our Theology *class*, ergo it is a *class-list*; it must also of necessity be a class-list, since it is not an author-list, nor is it a dictionary or a classed or an alphabetic-classed catalogue.

Now we get the librarian as lecturer, or more correctly, lecture agent. A prospectus of half-hour talks and exhibitions comes from **Croydon**. The exhibitions are to be of Croydon and Surrey reprints, and of the technical books purchased out of the Corporation grant, 1901. The programme of lectures is a good one.

The *Bulletin* of the **Peterborough** Public Library for February, 1902, still maintains its position as one of the best published. There are two special reading-list, on "Our Colonies" and "Evolution." But more annotations, please!

The **Cork** Library Report, 1901, tells us that the number of books issued from the library and the number of visitors to the reading room have been larger during the past year than in any previous year since the library was opened in 1893. The Report is satisfactory all round.



*Our New Books, Kingston's* quarterly journal for December, is to hand. It was published rather late owing to the lack of sufficient catalogue matter in the beginning of December. Ah, copy! copy! Now that the librarian has turned editor he must expect to be plagued by this biggest of editorial nightmares. When we come to think of it, where will a librarian's duties begin and end in the near future? Besides being librarian he is now also editor, lecturer, exhibition organiser, and municipal director of education, this last, of course, not really, but only in his own mind. In some cases we believe he also "caretakes" his library, and even scrubs it down now and then; and we know at least one case where the librarian is stoker, and is moreover proud of the artistic and scientific manner in which he performs this arduous duty.

The Report of the **Sandeman** Public Library, Perth, for 1901, is on the whole good. "Lack of funds" is somewhat pervasive, but that is the case in many libraries. And, alas! "it has been found necessary to discontinue the issue of the *Quarterly Record*, as the comparatively few copies sold did not nearly meet the cost of production." It was an experiment, of course; and it always seems to us that the "livest" institution is that which is always experimenting to find means of reaching the people.

We have also received the following:—Manchester Libraries *Quarterly Record*, v. 5, No. 3, *Co-operative Bulletin* of the Pratt Institute Free Library and the Brooklyn Public Library, for January and February, *Finsbury Quarterly Guide* for January, with many fat "guides" in the shapes of notes, the *Nottingham Library Bulletin*, *Bootle Free Library Journal*; and Reports from Redruth, Longton, and Chorley, all showing substantial progress,

**Kilmarnock, Dick Institute Public Library.** Supplementary Catalogue: Lending and Reference. viii + 168 pp. 1901.

This is a good sample of dictionary cataloguing. The entries are clear and well-arranged; the various types used—subjects in black face, authors in small caps, imprint in italics—and the excellent printing, are a pleasure to see. There are some things we do not agree with, for examples, the choice of a subject word for the books, and the omission of a form entry for juvenile books but on the whole this list could not be better. It is at once a credit to Kilmarnock and its compiler.

**Newcastle-upon-Tyne Public Libraries.** Catalogue of the books and Tracts on Pure Mathematics in the Central Library. Compiled by Basil Anderton, B.A., and R. T. Richardson. 1901.

This list brings together into small compass the particulars of a valuable collection of mathematical literature, and for this reason should be in the possession of every librarian and bibliographer. As a specimen of catalogue it does not impress us. There is an author list and an anonymous list for each department, reference and lending. Hence this publication is a list simply, and not a catalogue. There are no subject entries or indices. We are not

mathematical students, it is true, but it would seem that a catalogue directing the student to all the matter on (say) quaternions or to the theory of numbers, must be more valuable than a list of authors, of whose names he cannot know more than one quarter. Again, if the consultor knows his author, the alphabetic arrangement of the entries under the author's name does not help him much, *e.g.*, there are more than two large pages of entries under "Glaisher," and about one half of these entries are arranged under the word "On."



## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

THE following paragraph from a Cardiff newspaper may be taken as a commentary on Mr. Chennell's article against **Women Librarians**, which recently appeared in these columns:—

"In response to an advertisement for four library assistants, young women, at a moderate wage, the Cardiff Free Library Committee have received more than a hundred applications; and on Wednesday the onerous duty of selecting the four was completed, and the appointments were duly made."

As no comment has been offered so far on the article, we must either assume that the ladies are indifferent to the opinions of a mere man, or await the appearance of a Joan of Arc to champion their cause. There is much more to be said on the question than appears in Mr. Chennell's somewhat disjointed paper, and it is to be hoped someone will contribute an article which will include the many points ignored by the opener of the discussion.

MR. E. P. THOMPSON, a well-known Liverpool gentleman now residing at **Whitchurch**, has given to the town a free library, museum, and council chamber, which has cost about £8,000. At a great gathering of townspeople in the Town Hall on March 5th, under the presidency of Colonel Lee, the building was formally handed over to the town by Mr. Williams, solicitor, on behalf of the donor, and the deeds were received by the chairman of the Urban Council. The grateful thanks of the townspeople were expressed by several members of the Council, and subsequently the building was formally opened by the Dean of Lichfield, who said he did so in the confident hope that the building would be of lasting benefit, and that it would be as much for the pleasure of the people as the gift has been to the donor.

A PROVISIONAL ORDER has been approved by the Secretary of State for Scotland to enable the Town Council of **Dundee** to increase the Libraries rate from 1d. to 2d. in the pound.

IN order to commemorate his tenure of office as Mayor of **Eastbourne** the Duke of Devonshire has presented to the borough a site near the station for a technical institution and Public Library.

At a recent meeting of the **Aberdeen** Library Committee Lord Provost Fleming read the correspondence with Mr. Carnegie on the subject of the erection of a new central reading-room, the cost of which prevented the Library Committee from facing the question at once. Mr. Carnegie, who had been supplied with statistics regarding the progress of the library and the growth of the population, replied that he would, up to the extent of £6,000, which was stated to be the sum necessary, meet the expenditure for these purposes. On the motion of Mr. Kyd, the following resolution was very heartily adopted:—"The committee having heard with much satisfaction the intimation of the Lord Provost of the generous offer of Mr. Andrew Carnegie to bear the cost, up to £6,000, of the new central reading-room and of the proposed branch reading-rooms for Torry and Ruthrieston, hereby places on record an expression of its grateful thanks to Mr. Carnegie for this further substantial expression of his interest in the cause of library work in the city, and asks the Lord Provost to convey to Mr. Carnegie its sense of his great generosity to the city."

THE following is a record of some recent happenings in the **Public Library Movement**: **East Dean** District, Gloucestershire, has rejected the Public Libraries Acts by 758 to 364 votes. A movement is in progress at **Wandsworth** to secure the centralisation of the library management, which at present is in the hands of separate committees, but so far no definite resolution has been passed. The Library Rate has been raised from  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 1d. in the Borough of **Lewisham**. The Public Libraries (Scotland) Acts have been adopted by the parish of **Prestonpans**, N.B.

THERE has been a welcome series of increases in the **Salaries of Librarians** in various parts of the country, which must be very encouraging to those gentlemen who periodically send out circulars to selected Public Libraries with a view to procuring information to be used as a lever for securing increases for themselves. This kind of request is becoming so common that we may take it for granted that there is now a disposition on the part of Public Library Committees to consider applications for increases in a much more generous and friendly spirit than heretofore. At Lambeth the salary has been increased from £375 to £400, with residence. At Bristol, where the salary was previously £400, it is to be increased by four annual increments of £25 to £500. The Holborn Borough Council have permanently appointed the present librarians of St. Giles and Holborn at annual salaries of £260 and £235 respectively, without residences. At Richmond the salary is to increase from £200 to £230 as a maximum, by increments of £10 every alternate year, with residence. At Douglas the librarian's salary has been increased from £120 to £130, and various increases have also been made in the salaries of the staff.

## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

A MONTHLY Meeting of the Library Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Monday, 10th March, Mr. Tedder in the chair. Mr. Tedder announced that Mr. Lawrence Inkster, Chief Librarian of the Battersea Public Library, had been appointed Hon. Secretary, in place of Mr. Soulsby, resigned, and Mr. Jast on behalf of the members congratulated the Council on the appointment of Mr. Inkster, in the course of which he dexterously contrived to genially hit a few unoffending heads. Mr. Inkster having suitably replied, Mr. Sidney Webb, L.C.C., read a paper on "The Library Service of London ; its Co-ordination, Development, and Education." Mr. Webb described the present library service as a chaos, and advocated the preparation of a general catalogue of the contents of the various libraries. This might be done, he suggested by every library marking a copy of the British Museum catalogue with the books it possessed, and the location of books it did not possess which were in other libraries. He considered that by this means the duplication of books in special subjects by London Public Libraries would be avoided, and that each library should specialise in some one or two directions only, and send the enquirer on other topics to the libraries in which they were severally represented. His views of the training of librarians were, as was to be expected, of a very advanced type, and he looked forward to the day when a University degree would be the mark of the librarian. Mr. Webb sketched a three year's course of study for a Degree in library service. The paper was discussed by Messrs. Roberts, Jast, Inkster, Peddie, Tedder, and others. While agreeing in Mr. Webb's general idea, the speakers criticised adversely the particular proposals, so that, in his reply, Mr. Webb complained that his paper had not met with that apparently complete and universal acceptance he imagined it was entitled too. It was an admirable paper by a student, who evidently knew little of the practical work of the librarian, and whose views seemed to be based upon the idea that the general user of the Public Library was not only a student, but one who possessed both time enough and money enough to hunt his quarry wheresoever it might be.

An interesting interlude was provided by the Chairman of the Holborn Libraries' Committee, who asserted that the ratepayer did not want Public Libraries—the poor man (we refer to the abstract ratepayer) having seemingly been hypnotised into voting for them—and that these institutions were of an essentially ephemeral character, and will—we suppose—be abolished by somebody or other, somehow or other, some time or other. We understand that after the meeting, the porter noticed a curious sweating of the walls of the apartment, which he

could not account for, but which we fancy, has some occult connection with the shocking and most un-Hanoverian-Squarian sentiments vented by the Chairman of the Holborn Libraries' Committee.

A strong General Committee has been formed at Birmingham to make arrangements for the forthcoming visit of the Library Association in September next. Mr. Councillor Haines has been elected chairman, with Councillor Green as hon. treasurer, and Mr. A. S. Bennett as hon. secretary. Sub-committees have also been appointed as follows:— Reception: Mr. G. J. Johnson (chairman), Mr. A. Capel Shaw (hon. secretary). Excursions: Professor Windle (chairman); Mr. G. H. Morley (hon. secretary). Finance: Mr. Councillor Green (chairman) and Mr. C. E. Scarse (hon. secretary).

Mr. W. C. Plant, of Shoreditch, has been appointed a London member of Council in place of Mr. Inkster, who has become hon. sec.

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#### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

A MEETING of this society was held at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday evening, March 5th, when Mr. H. J. Hewitt (Chiswick) read a paper on "The News-room." An interesting and practical discussion followed.

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#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

AT the last meeting of this club, a large number of members assembled to hear Sartor Resartus on the subject of "DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUES." He gave many strong reasons why annotation was necessary in the catalogues of Public Libraries, if intelligent use was going to be made of the enormous number of books on all subjects now, and in the past, produced by the press. The misleading character of most title-pages was pointed out, and the necessity for explanatory notes in catalogues as a guide to general readers and students was insisted upon. It was chiefly, however, with regard to the method of applying such notes that the discussion was mainly concerned. One or two members objected to notes of any kind on the ground that they considered them unnecessary, expensive, or too troublesome to prepare; but the whole of the speakers were unanimous in condemning the use of critical or opinionative notes under any circumstances whatever. Some amusing specimens were given of silly and useless notes, chiefly from American catalogues, which offered such portentous information as in the following examples:—"A pretty story with a moral purpose"; "Suitable for girls"; "A poignant tale of love and passion"; "This is a useful book, but bears marks of haste in composition," etc. It was pointed out that such annotations conveyed absolutely nothing to the would-be reader about the period, scope, purpose, or stand-point of the books, but simply gave the more or less fatuous opinion of some amateur and over-confident critic on a comparatively valueless side-issue such as literary style or interest. The use of criticism, in the opinion

of one member, was simply made an occasion for the display of an over-weening sense of self-importance by someone who looked upon the mere *technique* of the book as the beginning and end of its interest and value to the public. Such self-elected critics were sure to elevate the precious phraseologists of France—those subtle analysts of the things that don't matter—into a prominence out of all proportion to their value as entertainers, educators, or historical and social recorders. Indeed, this very thing had been done by an anonymous contributor to one of the London literary weeklies, who compiled a statistical table to show what a poor lot of novelists England had produced in the nineteenth century, compared to France. This remarkable result had been obtained by the simple process of over-valuing manner and depreciating matter, or in other words, preferring the mere printed word to wisdom, humanity, and the power of exciting healthy interest. Thus, in order to swell the total of French genius, a number of third, and even fourth-rate novels had been inserted, like Gautier's "Captain Fracasse," De Vigny's "Military Life," Sand's "Francis, the waif," Flaubert's "Temptation of St. Anthony," and other books of a similar calibre. The depreciation of the English side was achieved by omitting Scott's "Kenilworth" and "The Antiquary," entirely ignoring Galt, one of the earliest and most powerful of modern realists; leaving out of reckoning the whole of the characteristic and thoroughly British novels of the sea; and substituting certain comparatively feeble and uninfluential historical novels of Dumas and Gautier as worthy of a place in a comparison from which were omitted Lytton's "Last Days of Pompeii"; Kingsley's "Hypatia" and "Westward Ho!"; Reade's "Cloister and the Hearth," and Blackmore's "Lorna Doone." This comparison was cited as an example of the kind of thing to be expected from those who considered criticism absolutely necessary in the annotation of catalogue entries. It would inevitably lead to the expression and perpetuation of opinions which could but mislead, because only representative of the prejudices or preferences of one mind. There were many other opinions expressed to the same effect, and the Pseudonyms for once found themselves in absolute agreement upon a question which seems in other quarters to be a kind of battle-field for contending forces.



**A BOOK-NOTATION AND AN INDICATOR.**

By FRANKLIN T. BARRETT, *Librarian, Borough of Fulham Public Libraries.*

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IT is not any part of my intention to open the much-vexed question of the respective merits, or, should I not say, the respective demerits of indicators and of open access, in the lending departments of Public Libraries. Whatever may be our individual views, it must be conceded that there are occasions in which one or other system is dictated by the local circumstances.

Such an occasion has arisen in the Gorbals branch of the Glasgow Public Libraries. This is the first of a suite of branches with which Glasgow is to be equipped. It is located in rooms which were already in the possession of the Corporation. The rooms, as is, unfortunately, so frequently the case when libraries have to be fitted to ready-made apartments, are unsuitable, consisting as they do of two apartments, each 133 ft. long by 21 ft. broad. The upper floor has been arranged as a general reading and news-room, and a reading-room for women and girls, with success, but the planning of the lending department in the northern portion of the lower floor presented great difficulties.

The lending department is to be placed in a chamber, if I may call it so, of 80 ft. in length and 21 ft. in breadth. It is lighted by windows in one of the long sides. I understand that the adoption of the open access system will be considered in the organisation of some, at least, of the branches. But in this particular branch the exigencies of the ready-made apartment prescribe a closed door. Issue will be conducted by card charging, with an indicator (used as indicator only) for adult and juvenile fiction.

It is my desire to describe some points in the proposed administration of this lending library; for I believe that the methods about to be adopted in so large and so important a library centre as is Glasgow cannot fail to be worthy of the attention of all practical and progressive librarians.

One is sometimes inclined to long for centralisation and unification in library matters, were it only for the simpleness and economy which should result from uniformity of method. But, in so young a profession as ours, the experience arising out of diversity of practice is invaluable, is, indeed, the only path of evolution. The golden age of an established dogma of matured and efficient theory is still unheralded. It is to thoughtful experiment, and to the sober and honest criticism of it, that we must look, not merely for the attainment, but for the conception, of an ideal.

This, however, is parenthetical. Returning to the proper matter of this paper, I will indicate some of the main considerations which are to be met by the notation and indicator adopted for use in the Gorbals branch lending library.

VOL. IV. No. 47, May, 1902.

The approved scheme provides for quite a number of lending departments in the city and the suburbs. The collections of books in the various establishments are to be as diverse as is possible. Each borrower is to be entirely free to obtain books from any of the libraries, and equally free to return them or to exchange them at the same or any other library. That is, any issue can be discharged at any library.

This extension of facility to the borrower entails some departure from the ordinary methods of charging. The borrowers will accordingly retain their tickets whether they have books or not. The number of a book issued will be entered on the borrower's ticket, and the discharge will be effected by the official cancellation of that number. Borrowers will be required to present their tickets both upon applying for and upon returning books. In other respects the charging is normal. From considerations of space the public indicator has had to be limited to prose fiction and books for juvenile borrowers, and the charging cards for these books while in the library are kept in pockets within the books. The cards for all other books are kept in trays close beside the issue counter, and will serve as a staff indicator of books in.

It will be well to remark that the counter work is to be subdivided; there being one counter for the return of all books, a second for the issue of fiction, and a third for the issue of non-fiction. The registration of issue will consist of three entries—first, the book number on the borrower's ticket; second, the borrower's number on the book card; and, third, the date for return upon the book label. Any apparent excess of labour on the issue, arising from the three entries, is expected to be fully compensated by the great rapidity of the discharge on return, as I have said this will consist only in the cancellation of the book number upon the borrower's ticket. The book cards in the charging trays will be extracted as opportunity will permit; generally speaking, of course, at the time of return.

It has been determined that the books shall be classified upon the shelves with a considerable degree of closeness, but very great refinement is not deemed essential.

One number only is to be used for shelving, for charging, for indicating, and for cataloguing. While that number must be sufficiently complex to indicate, not only the classification, but also the individual book, it must be of such simplicity as to admit of easy handling by the staff during any press of work, and of easy comprehension and copying by the borrowers.

In the attempt to devise such a notation serious difficulties are met at the very outstart. In most libraries where the books are minutely classified the charging is by accession number, the classification number being used only to secure the order in shelving. In such a case the complication or magnitude of the symbol is the consequence; but where it is desired to have the same symbol used for the charging cards as among the books, it is necessary to maintain that order in an indicator of classification or magnitude of numbers may



In this instance, as in so many others, recourse must be made to compromise, a balancing of defect against defect, and the ultimate more or less willing surrender of unquestioned benefits on either side. Some loss of detail in the classification and some loss of simplicity in the charging number are considered to be more than counterbalanced by the advantages gained in having books, indicator and charging system in the same sequence.

In those classes of books which may be called alphabetical, viz., fiction, biography, poetry, essays, &c., the initial letter of the surname of the author or subject is used with two figures to give the personal sequence (a model list of names has been prepared to secure a fair distribution). Two other figures are used as a book number, and will be applied in order of accession.

In fiction the author's initial is placed between the two numbers thus, 27B13, which means the twenty-seventh author in B and his thirteenth book.

DICKENS	
1	D 1
1	D 2
1	D 2
1	D 2
1	D 3
1	D 3
DOYLE	

In biography the subject's initial is placed first, as R6503, which means the third book about the sixty-fifth subject in R.

In poetry the author's initial is placed last, as 2507E—the seventh book by the twenty-fifth author in E.

In essays, which apparently are to be a feature in these collections of books, the fiction symbol is used with the letter E prefixed, as E31M27, which means the twenty-seventh essay by the thirty-first author in M.

Other books are to be numbered with five figures, of which the first three are the Dewey classification numbers, and the two following are book numbers in order of accession.

The notation in the alphabetic classes will, I think, prove effective and convenient. The varied position of the letters gives great capacity

to the five-mark symbol. It will keep the authors in proper sequence, and will keep their works together; it will also keep various copies of the same work together, for all copies will bear the same number, differentiated by a copy mark. In some respects the notation devised bears some resemblance to the call numbers used in American libraries for works of fiction.

To the notation of the non-alphabetic classes, however, there are very manifest objections. But I submit that these objections lie rather with the adoption of the Dewey classification than with the attempt to mark these books with a five-figure symbol, of which the first three figures indicate the classification.

Without entering into any criticism of the Dewey classification, which I both use and admire, I will simply direct attention to the fact that the decimal system upon which it is based, whatever may be its practical merits, is absolutely destructive of proportionate representation; that whereas one group of three figures (298) is used to mark books on Mormonism, the system can only afford a similar group of three figures (621) to mark all books on mechanical engineering, with its branches, steam engineering, water engines, electrical engineering, gas engines, air compressors, ice machines, blowing engines, pumping engines, mills, mill work, mechanism of transmission, and machine tools. The latter group is of course adequately divided by the use of five figures. I instance the case merely to show that the Dewey three-figure classification is in itself inadequate.

The use of a highly complex and refined classification for small lending libraries seems to me to savour somewhat of the use of a Cambridge microtome for cutting slices of bread and butter. The tool is too delicate for the work it is to perform.

What is wanted is a classification under 999 heads of which none is wasted. In Dewey's classification, when used for a small lending library, many three-figure numbers are wasted—for instance, in 300 to 309 (form divisions of sociology in general) 300 alone is wanted; in 310 to 319 (statistics) two headings only can be of any possible service; similarly in other places. These strictures, of course, have no application in the case of reference libraries, of large general collections, or of specialist's collections.

We may take it that the half of a lending library will fall into alphabetical groups, leaving in a small library not more than 15,000 volumes to be provided for. An ideal classification under 999 heads would give barely more than fifteen volumes in each group; a practical classification should be possible which should never be called upon to accommodate more than ninety-nine volumes in any one class. If that were achieved, a five-figure notation would be obtained which would be practically perfect for shelving and for charging.

The aim at Glasgow, as may have been gathered, is to preserve the charging cards in the same sequence as the books. In my own practice at an open access branch library I charge by the Dewey classification number plus an author and book symbol; I do not attempt to hide the fact that the charging number is in many cases

very awkward in use. I have adopted this method because I conceive it to be important to check the stock easily at any moment. I will not insist upon the necessity of my habit of making a complete check of fiction weekly, and of non-fiction fortnightly; but I do believe the power of making this check, and at any rate an occasional use of it, to be entirely beneficial. When the cards representing the books "in" are arranged in the order of the books on the shelves a complete check of the stock is merely the matter of a few hours; where the charging is by accession number the labour is so much greater as to be almost prohibitive.

We will pass now to the indicator which is to be used in the Gorbals library for showing fiction in an alphabetic sequence of authors. Convenient adjustability is of course a primary necessity. It must be possible to insert easily new number at any places where the additions may chance to require them, or to remove them equally easily for withdrawals.

In this indicator, then, the aim has been to make each column of numbers movable within the frame, so that new columns may be inserted anywhere; and further to make each number movable within the column.

The body of the indicator consists of a large glazed frame, which is part and parcel of the counter. The frame is provided at the top with a rail upon which the columns hang, and along which they may slide; it is fitted at the foot with a rod, which normally presses against the bottoms of the columns to hold them steadily and firmly against the glass; the removal of this rod permits of the movement or removal of the columns.

Each column is a frame some 36-in. high,  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. wide, and 2-in. deep from back to front, made of two flat strips of thin sheet metal,\* held apart at top, foot, and middle, by blocks of wood of proper width; each column is furnished with a hook to fit upon the rail from which it is to hang.

The blocks which form the individual items of the indicator are made of wood  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -in. wide, 2-in. long, and  $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. thick. They are blackened and are numbered in gold on both ends. Along one side of each block there is a groove ploughed out from back to front, and in this groove is placed a small square rod, with one end black and the other white; when the white end of the rod shews to the public side of the indicator it indicates that the book whose number it follows is available for issue. The column of blocks will be tightened up securely by means of a tapered keypiece.

The blocks were made by Mr. Chivers, of Bath; the columns were made locally under the direction of the librarian.

The plan permits blocks bearing the name of the authors to be inserted above the numbers representing the works of the other authors. An interesting point arises out of this, that the alphabetical catalogue is to all intents and purposes a key to the indicator. Any borrower

\* In the one made for Gorbals, tinned sheet steel has been used.

wishing to read the novels of a given author can easily see what is available without having to scan the whole indicator for a score or two of widely distributed numbers.

Duplicates are easily dealt with. Any number of copies of a novel receive in the catalogue only one symbol, and that symbol is repeated in the indicator the requisite number of times, with the addition of a copy mark on the staff side. When some copies wear out, and are not thought worthy of replacement, their respective blocks are withdrawn; or, if on the contrary, it is desired to provide more copies, the addition of the extra blocks in their proper places offers no difficulty.

It is hardly necessary to state that the indicator now described must as yet be regarded as an experiment, and that very probably its use may suggest modifications in construction. It will be tried purely on its merits as a working tool, and the result will no doubt be observed with interest. That it will be set a severe trial may be assumed, for it will be used in the first, and for a time the only, free public lending library in Glasgow.



## WOMEN IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

By KATE E. PIERCE, *Public Library, Kettering.*

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**A**N article in the March number of the *Library World*, on "Lady Assistants in Public Libraries," by Mr. Chennell, of Willesden Green, dismisses the claims of women to positions as municipal workers in such a tone of absolute confidence, that I am tempted to challenge some of his conclusions. It is with some hesitation that I come forward to raise objections to some of his statements, being but a "lady help" who has incurred the reprobation of the late learned Arthur Schopenhauer and the displeasure of the gallant Mr. F. E. Chennell, who seems to be somewhat afflicted by the jealous thought that he, too, is not "basking amorously" in the "sunny smiles" of "girl recruits," who are anxious to occupy the "foot-prints" of vastly superior male assistants!

The main point of Mr. Chennell's indictment, stripped of its garnishing of mere conjecture and verbal prolixity, is that women are threatening to oust men and boys from positions in Public Libraries to which, he assumes, they have earned a proscriptive or traditional right. He does not tell us how men acquired such a valuable freehold as this exclusive right to manage Public Libraries, nor does he state what his views would have been had libraries from the very first been staffed by women, like the public schools. He simply contents himself with the somewhat gratuitous assumption that women are fitted for library work, because Schopenhauer, that old Gerrish, and because Mr. Frank Chennell, that upstart Nighthead, have put it in his sleeve, possibly as imaginary a profession of librarian will:

pleased to call an "innovation." Mr. Chennell gives two remedies for getting rid of the "ubiquitous female." The first, to substitute uneducated youths for educated girls, and so assert the divine right of the male animal to boss the show. The mystery is how girls ever obtained a footing in *any* of the many occupations in which they now compete successfully, and on equal terms, with the vastly superior male! The second remedy is, I fear, less simple, as, even in this free country, oriental methods are frowned upon, and a librarian cannot keep on marrying all his girl assistants much as they would appreciate the honour, and this remedy must, therefore, wait till Mormonism or Islamism become recognised institutions!

Mr. Chennell has missed some of the most important points in connection with this matter, and I shall set forth a few which occurred to me when I read his article.

1.—He is very strong all through his paper, on the alleged inferiority of women to men in mental and physical attributes, and thinks that the coming of the lady assistant will mean a great deterioration in the work, pay, and calling of librarian. No proof is given for this extraordinary statement, and Mr. Chennell is careful to conceal the fact that a very large proportion of the boy assistants now employed in Public Libraries are considered incompetent by their masters; as may be gathered from the constant cry for more classes, more education, and better-class youths altogether. I learn, further, from various sources, that some of the Public Libraries which have been managed by men from their foundation, are not, by any means, on lines which even Mr. Chennell would approve, and that the proportion of male duffers in the library profession is excessive, considering the total number of librarians.

2.—The great difficulty of obtaining boys, especially in large towns, and in those which cannot afford progressive advances, is entirely overlooked by Mr. Chennell. It is this, more than anything else, which has led to the recent increase in the number of women assistants which has alarmed Mr. Chennell. and it will continue to prove a stumbling-block in many places.

3.—I have been assured by librarians who employ women, that they are much more reliable, honest, and steady than boys; that they remain in one place much longer on the average; and that the number who fall victims to matrimony cause fewer changes than will be found in a staff composed exclusively of boys.

4.—I cannot find any trace of the introduction of women assistants having led to reductions in salaries. On the other hand, I know that the women assistants at Bristol, Battersea, Clerkenwell, Bradford, Manchester and elsewhere are paid better than the corresponding grades of male assistants in other places. This can easily be verified by reference to Greenwood's last "Library Year Book."

5.—Apparently Mr. Chennell has not taken to heart the revelations of the last census. With a considerable majority of women, is it to be supposed that they must not seek every possible means of obtaining a livelihood which can be legitimately found?

6.—Whatever their political or physical shortcomings may be, women have proved themselves enthusiastic, capable, and trustworthy librarians, both in England and America, and not a few of the best ideas in modern American library management have emanated from them. Perhaps Mr. Chennell will point out the living English male librarians who have done as much for library science generally as Mrs. Fairchild (Miss Cutler), Miss Hewins, Miss Plummer, Miss Sharp and the other American ladies, or Signora Sacconi-Ricci, lately a librarian in Florence? There is no need to speak of the Englishwomen who have distinguished themselves as bibliographers, cataloguers, and indexers, because Mr. Chennell says there are none!

7.—Mr. Chennell has not proved, or attempted to prove, that women *deserve* to be superseded in library work. He has only given utterance to certain fears, based more on prejudice or imagination than on actual experience. Perhaps he will favour us with instances in which the employment of women has proved prejudicial to the public interest. On this point I may add that I have not yet heard of any woman librarian being implicated in proceedings which, at the very least, suggest to the unprejudiced bystander, carelessness in the handling of public money.

These are a few points which others may add to or expound, and they establish, I think, the possibility of the existence of another side to the question Mr. Chennell has raised. In a matter affecting the public interest so closely as Free Libraries, the question of the sex, nationality, creed, or politics of those who are responsible for their good management, is one which need only be raised when there is a huge public outcry against one or the other, or when committees find that their staffs are inefficient, and dismiss them accordingly, irrespective of sex or any other circumstance. If Mr. Chennell once admits that a good girl is better than a bad boy, then the whole of his case against women, such as it is, falls to the ground.



## THE CATALOGUE OF THE BISHOPSGATE INSTITUTE.

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MR. Goss's Catalogue of the Lending Department of the Bishopsgate Institute is an achievement upon which he is to be congratulated. It is mentioned upon the title-page as a "descriptive catalogue," and in claiming to be compiled upon the "dictionary system," it is the greatest of dictionary catalogues, and perhaps the greatest of any others except the same kind. In a few particulars this

characteristics are the same; and it is fair to assume that his experience has justified Mr. Goss in adopting the same style again upon the scale which, if not "*revu et corrigé*—like the kiss which the lady returned to Rodolphe," resembles it in at least this particular, that it is "*considérablement augmenté*."

Its outstanding feature is the number and manner of its annotations. There is probably not a single page not dotted over with elucidatory paragraphs, whilst not a few show more small type annotations than large type entries. Of the ninety-one entries under the head of Evolution, at least eighty have notes running to an average of about five lines apiece. Ethics, Capital and Labour, and the Transvaal—to take a few at random—are similarly treated; but the same system practically prevails throughout the whole of the catalogue. How time has been found to obtain and then condense all this information we cannot imagine: Mr. Goss must either be a syndicate, or his "infinite capacity for taking pains" amounts almost to genius. He has done well in avoiding (to use his own words) "criticism, unnecessary detail, or flippant expression of private opinion; being content to describe the authors' methods, and to give some information concerning the standpoint from which" the various works were written. It is open to question whether annotations cannot be overdone, and perhaps in preference to excellent summaries it might answer all reasonable requirements if the books "for" and "against" contentious subjects (only) were put in separate groups under a common heading, such as Free trade and Protection, or Socialism. But, after all, this is a matter of opinion, and each one must choose for himself. In any case even if that were done, some books would require a note; and it is better to give too much rather than too little. Having said this, and bearing in mind one's own desperate efforts to reduce wordy vagueness to succinctness, it only remains to praise Mr. Goss's success in this difficult enterprise.

Second only to the annotations is the manner in which subject-headings are treated. Here we have, in this dictionary catalogue, a series of small class lists, set in alphabetical order with author-entries, interspersed with titles of works of fiction, poetry, vague and non-descript books. The entries relating to Great Britain, for example, cover nearly thirty columns, the sub-headings being arranged in alphabetical order, as follows:—Agriculture, antiquities, architecture, army, art, botany, colonies, commercial, and economic, constitution and government, descriptive, ecclesiastical, ethnology, geography, geology and palæontology, history (in chronological periods), mythology and folklore, natural history (with a sub-heading of birds), navy, political and railways. There is no cross-reference to the various countries; but on turning to England we find under that heading a selection of descriptive and social works there catalogued, with cross-references supplied. With similar detail, English language has a run of sectional headings:—general, analysis, parsing, and syntax, composition, errors of speech, etymology, grammar and history. Other countries and other subjects are dealt with in a like exhaustive manner; geometry—

to take a final instance, on a smaller scale being divided into :— analytical, conic sections, descriptive, euclid, modern, and practical, plane, and solid.

Whether this is the best system or not may be a matter of opinion. It is a nice question for argument whether British geology should go under *Gt. Britain—Geology*, or *Geology—Gt. Britain*. To enter under both headings is an extravagance few can afford; but Mr. Goss has been able to do this wherever it has appeared desirable, and the gain will be to the public. As a set-off to this amplification, a number of economies have been effected. Entries have been reduced to single lines wherever possible; runs of novels by prolific authors have been set in smaller type in quarter-measure; and form-entries, such as Poetry, have been squeezed into half this size without much detriment. The catalogue itself, being of super-royal size, allows an appreciably wider column than the usual royal 8vo., and really gives a quarto imposition to an octavo page, the margins being very small. A frequent resort to a clear-faced nonpareil type, and an insuperable antipathy to printers' "fat," all tend to the saving of space. But with all this compression the catalogue runs to 639 pages, almost rivalling that of Dundee. When, however, it is considered that books have generously been entered under all the subject-headings under which they might reasonably be expected to be found, and that composite books have been entered under authors and subjects, it will not be thought that the dimensions are needlessly large.

Having thus expressed our admiration for the work, we may indicate a few points in which we differ from Mr. Goss. To our thinking the cross-references are all too few; the dropping of them in particular from the smaller to the larger headings, almost calling for a skeleton classification table such as Mr. Ogle adopted for *Bootle*. Moths are catalogued under *Butterflies*, but no entry indicates the fact. Then, too, dates of publication have, with few exceptions, been dropped. The preface explains that this has been done of set purpose, and since dates are frequently misleading, there is something to be said for their omission. Mr. Goss was one of the few who rectified the publishers' oversight by supplying the real date to an out-of-date book, and we are sorry that he has curtailed rather than extended this useful feature. We cannot help thinking, also, that dates should have been supplied to scientific and technical works—unless, indeed, the Governors intend to take the heroic step of keeping such literature always up-to-date, in which case a date in the catalogue would be misleading, and is better left out. Series of books are not indicated, but this is of less importance. We notice that *Jukes-Brown* appears under the fore-name and not under *Brown*, and that "*Denison (Edmund B.)*" is not identified with *Lord Grimthorpe*, but such blemishes are small in importance as they are also few in number. On the other hand, pseudonyms receive full attention and are quite abreast of the times, and Mr. Goss has appended his annotations to subject-entries (a cross reference being given), a c h v ee. The



catalogue is very consistent to its own principles (which is more than can always be said for such productions), and is excellently executed throughout.

Catalogues such as this amply prove that the dictionary system is elastic enough to incorporate many of the virtues of class-lists in addition to their own. It has been alleged that dictionary catalogues are "the last resort of the incompetent librarian." They have afforded shelter to such, without doubt; but the Bishopsgate Institute catalogue now before us demonstrates, once for all, that this much-abused system may also call for as much knowledge, accuracy and scientific construction as any other form can do. Mr. Goss set himself an ambitious task, and he has acquitted himself right worthily. A word of praise should also be accorded, to the printer for his share in an excellent "turn-out."

W. E. DOUBLEDAY.



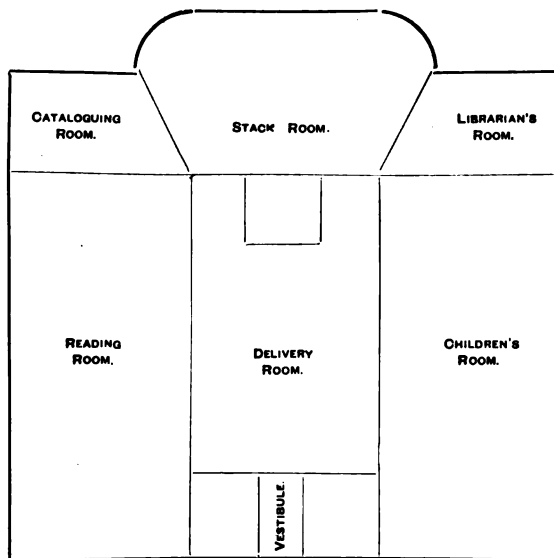
## THE LIBRARY PRESS.

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*Library Journal*, March.—This number contains a description, illustration and plans of the Reid Memorial Library, Passaic, N.J., The illustration shows a curious piece of architecture. The building is plain almost to classicism, yet has several florid details which look as well on it as a ringletted wig would on a Greek statue. But the visitor can easily shut his eyes as he walks in; afterwards he is fairly well satisfied, for the internal arrangement is rather good. From the vestibule a hall or delivery room is entered. Opposite the entrance is the delivery desk, and beyond a stack room for 27,000 volumes. Flanking the delivery room and stack room are (on the left) the cataloguing and reading rooms, (on the right) the librarian's and children's rooms. A rough plan is shown on page 292.

It will be at once observed that the children's room is the same size as the reading-room. From the delivery desk the attendants have a comprehensive view of each public room. The second floor is slightly different. Over the public rooms are two meeting and two special collection rooms; over the delivery room a hall; and over the cataloguing, librarian's, and stack rooms a lecture hall seating 350. Thus space has been provided for a general library, two special libraries, lectures, and two meeting-rooms for receiving societies and conducting missionary work.

Readers of Stevenson's "The Wrecker" have doubtless a lively recollection of the interview with Loudon Dodd, reported by Jim Pinkerton, and printed in a St. Joseph paper. Is it the same town which is responsible for the latest?—there are, we suppose, many St. Joes in the United States. Well, it appears that one of the towns of St. Jo (Mo.) has removed its library to a "handsome new building."



As an aid in the removal, the Library Board, at its previous meeting, authorised the librarian to issue *double the usual number* of books to readers, if desired. The books thus issued were made returnable two days after the opening in the new building.

Here's genius for you—here's a soul-stirring notion! *A bas la* pantechnicon; the borrowers will do the "removing" for us. The *Library Journal* does not report a similar occurrence at Wilmingville, a town in the same state as St. Jo. This library authority—or board—having also a new building to get into, decided to go St. Jo one better. An American press-cutting agency supplies us with a cutting from the *Wilmingville Trumpeter*. From this we learn that when the Wilmingville Library made tracks for its new swell home, "our esteemed librarian" made small bones about the moving. On the day of operations he had an army (= dozen, in U.S. tongue) of smart assistants hanging around, who plumped armfuls of books into the arms of the bookworms, and fired them out with the request that they were to return them to the aforesaid new swell home. And, great shakes! by sundown ne'er a blame' book was there in the shop. An army of navvies then simply hoisted the boss's roll-top on to a trolly and trundled it over, and the assistants waltzed behind in solemn cavalcade. The librarian, by the way, was not on view: a sinister rumour is going the rounds that he has taken a holiday on the crook.\*

\* This is entirely false, as we now find; it is simply one of those *canards* in which the American press delights. These are the facts of the case:—The librarian, it appears, on the day preceding the removal, endeavoured to find the

We cull the following paragraph with reference to the Niagara Falls Public Library:—

The sixth birthday of the library was observed by the annual "library day" on February 1st. In the evening a public reception was held, which was attended by about 200 persons; there was music, and refreshments were served. The next birthday party will, it is hoped, be given in the new Carnegie building.

This takes the cake, doesn't it?—or, rather, as we suppose, the favoured 200 took it. It was made by the librarian's wife, we'll be bound—the American librarian's wife invariably makes better cakes than the Englishwoman. How else can we explain the superiority of American ideas, as illustrated in original book-removing?—how else can we explain the greater profusion of American ideas, as illustrated by the birthday celebration idea. *We*, alas! did not think of the birthday cake; but still we might import it. The Library Association might turn its mind to something serious for once, and move a resolution in favour of birthdays. Think how much better it would be for assistants. And, by the way, they would all flock to Camberwell, where there are five little heads with five little committees, who would be bound to have five little birthdays with five little (?) cakes. What a high old time Camberwell would have! And, when we come to think of it, there should be a dozen or so delivery stations there, each of which could be managed by a little boy, with a little committee and a birthday all on its little own. This number also has a good article on "The Classification of Fiction," by Miss J. A. Rathbone, Pratt Institute Free Library, Brooklyn, N.Y. The lady discusses the question on these bases: classification—

(1) By *type* or kind. There are novels of manners and social life, novels of incident, novels of character study and development, fanciful and fantastic tales, humorous stories, simple love stories.

(2) By *subject*. Historical novels (these may be novels of incident, as "The Three Guardsmen," or of manners, like "Henry Esmond," or novels of character development, like "Romola"), sociological, scientific, religious, musical novels, and so on *ad infinitum*.

(3) By *literary quality* or the grade of the author, a rank determined in part by his personal force, and in part by his literary style. Dynamic force and literary quality are very different things, of course, and yet as manifested in literature they are so combined that it would be hardly possible to separate them as bases of arrangement.

scheme of operations which he had drawn up and had stowed away in the "roll-top," and in so doing had lost himself. Fortunately, the trundling to which the roll-top was subjected on the way to the new building brought about its dissolution, and the poor official was discovered almost in the last agonies. At the inquiry which followed, the manufacturer of the roll-top was congratulated on the fact that he had blown it together in one of his very tired moments."

(4) By *ethical influence*. This I mention merely as a possibility. It would be too difficult to determine to be practicable for use, but it would probably be found to be a factor in determining the rank of an author.

Mr. A. E. Bostwick contributes, "Is Individual Reading Increasing or Decreasing?"; Mr. W. W. Bishop, "Should the Librarian be a Bibliophile?"; Miss Angeline Scott, a good paper on "The Perplexities of Gifts"; Mr. T. Trumbell, "The Purchase of Current Fiction for Libraries of Limited Means"; and Mr. G. F. Bowerman, "The Net Price System and Public Libraries."

*Library Association Record*, March-April, 1902.—A good number, containing Mr. Guthrie Vine's account of "The National Library of Ireland"; Sir W. B. Richmond's "Some Art Books in the Hammer-smith Public Libraries"; Mr. Rhys Jenkins "Paper-making in England, 1714-88," a most interesting contribution; and Mr. Doubleday's paper on "The Question of 'Net Books.'"

*Public Libraries*, March.—A "libraries and schools" number, leading off with a symposium on co-operation by eleven important U.S. libraries. At Cincinnati the authority administers a children's room, used by 1,000 children per day, a study room, containing books bearing on the topics brought up in the schools, and exhibitions of books. For the younger children there is also a story hour each week, when one of the attendants talks to the children of books—their mechanical as well as intellectual make-up. Cleveland (among other things) issues collections of books to teachers for circulation to scholars, and prepares bulletins for special days and subjects for use in schoolrooms. Co-operation with the schools has, says Mr. Brett, shown one thing,

The great value of the personal supervision on the part of a teacher of the reading of her pupils. The wise teacher who knows good books can do so much more than anyone else, except the parent, to place the right book in the hands of the child and to secure a careful reading of it.

Detroit supplies some 7,000 books which are sent out as travelling libraries to 63 grammar and primary schools of the city, taking in all the grades from the third to the eighth inclusive. The Carnegie Library, Pittsburgh, has over 10,000 volumes circulating in the city schools. St. Louis has 269 sets, each set consisting of 30 copies of a book carefully chosen for a certain grade. "It is better to send 30 copies of the same book than 30 different books, for two reasons: first, because it enables the teacher to have class exercises; second, because the interest of each pupil is greatly intensified when all his class mates are reading the same book." Most of the other libraries follow some or all of these methods of helping the schools and popularising themselves. English librarians who have not seen this number of *Public Libraries* should get it forthwith.

We have also received the *Library Record of Australasia*, December, 1901; and the *Library Assistant*, April, 1902.

## SOME NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS.—II.

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## CENTRAL PUBLIC LIBRARY, HULL.

THE building has been erected in the Renaissance style, from the designs of Mr. J. S. Gibson, architect, London. The principal frontage is to Albion Street, and is executed in a fine red brick from Leicestershire, and warm brown stone dressings and ornamental parts from Ancaster. The front consists of two stories, the lower one having square-headed windows surmounted by recessed arches, and the upper windows having balconies with wrought-iron balconettes, into the design of which has been brought the city arms.

The front entrance gives access to a wide and spacious entrance hall containing the main stair, which is divided from the entrance hall by stone columns and arches, and the floor of this hall is laid with marble mosaic of appropriate design. On the left is the ladies' reading-room, 25 ft. long by 14 ft. 6 in. wide, finished in walnut with comfortable tables and chairs, while in the chimney piece is a fine piece of beautifully figured onyx, which enhances the appearance and cosiness of the room. The ladies who are to use this room have evidently been consulted, as the overmantel contains a fine mirror, which may give rise to "fair reflections" when literature fails to charm.

Next to this room is the magazine room, which also is furnished in walnut. This room is 26 ft. long by 26 ft. wide, and has a pretty arcade, behind which are glass domes which light the room very effectually. The chimney-piece has rouge royal marble filling in, and looks very cosy and cheerful, as no doubt frequenters of it will think.

On the right is the librarian's room, 24 ft. long by 15 ft. wide, which will probably also serve as a committee room; this is furnished throughout in walnut and green morocco.

Adjoining this room is placed the lending library, 62 ft. long by 34 ft. wide, and 20 ft. high to the top of the fine open roof, along which is an ample skylight which floods this important department with daylight.

The furniture of this room is of walnut—the fine counter with the Cotgreave Indicator screen over being a beautiful piece of work. The whole of the bookstacks behind the counter are of oak fitted with Tonks' patent adjustable fittings, while a book-lift and private stair communicate with the reference department on the first floor.

Telephones are also fitted between the chief rooms and the librarian's room, thus saving the time of the staff and expediting the business. A side corridor runs from the back of the hall to the Baker Street entrance and off this corridor, near to Baker Street, is the newspaper reading-room. This room is 47 ft. long by 32 ft. wide and 20 ft. high and is lighted in a similar manner to the lending library, besides having a very large window to the street. The walls are coloured in nice cool green, the dado in a darker shade of the same colour, and these go very well with the oak fittings, which are very handsome. The newspaper

stands are arranged to hold two papers, and ample space is left for persons to move about without disturbing readers, while a few tables have been placed in the centre of the room where the cheaper magazines may be consulted. The walls of the entrance hall and corridor and stairs have been covered with tiles of a light and pleasing tint, and everywhere there is evidence of plenty of light and air, and a general air of comfort and substantiality.

The reference library is on the first floor, at the top of the main stairs, and is a fine room extending the whole length of the Albion Street



**HULL REFERENCE LIBRARY.**  
*Librarian. Mr. W. F. LAWTON.*

frontage. The dimensions are 72 ft. long by 30 ft. wide and 21 ft. high to the top of the ceiling. The centre part of the room is to be used by readers and tables have been provided to accommodate forty; the ends of the room being fitted up as a book store. Advantage has been taken of the height of the room to get two stories of books, which have been very effectively designed by the architect. The chief features of this room are the beautiful fittings of mahogany inlaid with various coloured and expensive woods, and the finely modelled ceiling into which the city arms and the monogram of the library have been introduced.

*Cost:* Land, £6,774 (area 1,129 square yards); buildings, £10,200; fittings and furniture, £2,500. The librarian is Mr. William F. Lawton, and the library now contains 30,500 volumes, excluding pamphlets, of which 18,500 are in the lending and 12,000 in the reference department.

## MILE END PUBLIC LIBRARY.

THE Mile End Public Library was formally opened by the Rev. Canon Barnett, Warden of Toynbee Hall, on Thursday, January 9th, 1902. This, the fourth, completes the libraries for the Borough of Stepney, the others being in Whitechapel, Limehouse, and St. George-in-the-East. The Mayor of Stepney (Alderman Edward Mann, J.P.) in his robes and chain of office presided, supported by the Aldermen, Members of Parliament, and Members of the L.C.C. for the Borough, and a large gathering of ratepayers and others. The Rev. Canon Barnett, the pioneer of the library movement in East London, gave an interesting and instructive address on "Books." In the course of his remarks he stated that twenty-five years ago the proposal for the establishment of Free Libraries in East London was rejected with scorn, to-day every division of the Tower Hamlets was equipped with a library.

The library is situated in the old Mile End Vestry Hall, Bancroft Road, which has been altered and adapted for its present purpose at a moderate cost. The reference and lending libraries are on the ground floor, and the reading room occupies the whole of the hall on the first floor. The latter room is 55 ft. long and 35 ft. wide, lighted on three sides by lofty windows, heated by open fireplaces, and forms an exceedingly fine reading-room. Wall slopes have been placed round three sides of the room, which, together with four stands will accommodate fifty-six papers. There are, in addition, ten tables each seating eight readers, and two tables are reserved for ladies.

The lending library is on the right of the entrance hall, and occupies two rooms, one for administrative purposes, the other being used as the book stores, where shelving has been provided for some 12,000 volumes.

The reference library is on the opposite side of the hall. It is a comfortable room, but this department has been considerably curtailed as it has been necessary to set aside a large room for the use of the rate collectors of the district. As at present arranged it will seat about twenty readers, and there are book cases round the walls for 3,000 volumes.

The lending library, which is not yet open, is being organized to be worked on the "Card Charging" system, with indicators for fiction and juvenile classes. The books in both departments will be classified on the shelves on a modification of Brown's system. A juvenile class is provided, but at present there is no separate department for children. It is hoped that this extension may soon be made.

In consequence of this library being in such close proximity to the People's Palace, the Governors of that institution have obtained the consent of the Charity Commissioners to share their library. The furniture and books have been handed over to the Mile End Library, with the exception of such technical books as may be of use to the Palace readers. The stock of this library is over 12,000 volumes.

The Librarian is Mr. V. Mendenhall, formerly Librarian at St. George-in-the-East.

## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

A PROVISIONAL COMMITTEE has been formed for the purpose of inaugurating a **Photographic Survey** of the county of Surrey. The purpose of the survey will be to take and preserve permanent photographs of the scenery, geology and natural history, antiquities, buildings, streets, social life, and public events of the Surrey of to-day, as well as the reproduction of old prints, maps, and records of the Surrey of the past. Mr. Whitaker, B.A., F.R.S., has been appointed chairman of the Provisional Committee, and Mr. L. S. Jast has accepted the office of hon. curator *pro tem*. A meeting of delegates from all the photographic, scientific, and other working societies of Surrey has been called for May 9th, to assemble in the Croydon Town Hall and discuss the project. The Public Library Committee of **Perth** are endeavouring to arrange with the photographic section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science to have photographs taken of old buildings about to be demolished and other objects of interest in the neighbourhood, for the purpose of preserving a permanent record of the same.

Mr. **Duckworth**, the City Librarian of Worcester, recently delivered a lecture, illustrated by sixty slides, entitled "The Tour of the *Ophir*," being a description of the recent tour of the Prince and Princess of Wales and the opening of the great Federal Parliament.

AFTER a long discussion, it has been determined by the Borough Council of **Wandsworth** that the services of the four chief librarians at present in office shall be retained in any scheme for the future administration of the libraries.

A POLL in connection with the adoption of the Public Libraries Act took place at **Loanhead** on April 8th, when out of a constituency of 570 only 226 voted—187 being against, and 39 for the adoption of the Act!

THE Public Libraries Acts have been adopted by the **Buckley** Urban District Council, and will come into operation on June 1st, 1902.

Mr. J. T. HOUGHTON has been appointed librarian of **Worksop** Public Library.

ON March 17th, Mr. Fred. **Turner**, Librarian of Brentford, delivered an interesting lecture on "Places of Literary and Historic Interest," as the concluding one of the series promoted by the Brentford Public Library Committee. The financial result of the series of six lectures has been favourable, and a few pounds will be handed over to the Public Library.



AN exceedingly able and interesting paper on "The Planning of some Recent **Library Buildings** in the United States," by Mr. S. K. Greenslade, was read before the Royal Institute of British Architects on March 17th, and good abstracts of the paper and the discussion are given in the architectural journals for the week ending March 22nd. In an early number we hope to give a *résumé* of this valuable and suggestive essay.

As we go to press, a copy of Mr. Thomas **Greenwood's** monograph on "**Edward Edwards**, the Chief Pioneer of Municipal Public Libraries," has been received. It is published by Messrs. Scott, Greenwood & Co., at the moderate price of 2s. 6d. net, and comprises 246 pages. It deals with Edwards' place in the Public Library movement; his early pamphlets on library and educational questions; his work at the British Museum, 1839-1850; digest of his evidence before the Parliamentary Committees of 1849-1850; his work at Manchester; his connection with present-day librarianship; his literary and other work; his homely side; his association with his mother and sisters; his last years and death; and includes several useful appendices. On the whole, the book seems most thorough and complete, and should be in possession of every library committee-man, librarian, and assistant.

THE Public Libraries Acts have been adopted by the Metropolitan Borough of **Greenwich**, and will come into force about June. The rate produces an income of about £2,000 per annum.



## BOOK NOTICES.

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### **The Scenery of England, and the Causes to which it is Due.**

By the Right Hon. Lord Avebury. Macmillan & Co. 1902.  
Price 15s.

His previous books have shown that Lord Avebury is a master of the art of clothing the dry bones of science-teaching in an attractive literary garb, but we doubt whether in any other work he has given so striking an example of the art as in this, his latest publication.

Though full of information on geological subjects, it contains but one chapter (xvii) which cannot be understood and appreciated by the general reader, hence our notice of the book as one which every Public Library should possess.

Accomplished field geologists may not agree with all of the author's conclusions, but Lord Avebury treats with such fairness and judgment the opinions of other writers that criticism is disarmed.

The bare mention of the points which have most interested us in this wholly interesting book would occupy too much space, but we cannot refrain from referring to the pages which treat of the Ice Age, and the enormous effect of glacial action on scenery; the explanation of the waterless character of many valleys; the reason for the cutting

through of great escarpments by water agency, now sometimes represented only by tiny streams; the presence of erratic boulders far from their mountain sources of origin; the story of the Fen land; the formation of the Wash . . . But we must stop!

Again and again Lord Avebury passes from strict scientific description to the beautiful word-painting of an accomplished lover of open air life and scenery. The plates are not only good in themselves, but are truly illustrative of the subject, which is further elucidated by an ample supply of diagrams and sections incorporated with the text.

Perhaps the title would run more correctly were it "The Causes of the Scenery of England and Wales"; the map on page 406 is upside down, and the description of Mam Tor (pp. 269-270) is quoted from a writer whose statements in this case are not quite correct.

These are trifles which it seems almost ungracious to mention in noticing this valuable work; but we would be glad to see more maps, and, if possible, on larger scale, in future editions.

**The Ancestor.** A Quarterly Review of County and Family History, Heraldry and Antiquities. No. 1. April, 1902. Constable & Co., Ltd. Price 5s. per quarter.

It was a courageous action to launch this five-shilling quarterly amongst the crowd of existing periodicals, yet a study of the list of contents will at once show that there is a field till now unoccupied by other publications.

Though appealing specially to students of family history and heraldry, there is much to interest all who care for the traces of the making of our country's history.

The Earl of Malmesbury heads the list of contributors, which includes well-known names—Sir George Sitwell, Sir H. Maxwell-Lyte, Mr. J. H. Round, Mr. St. John Hope, Mr. Oswald Barron and others.

Being well illustrated, printed on a light-handling paper and bound in paper-covered boards, this royal 8vo. book of 282 pages makes a goodly volume which it is a pleasure to handle.

**The Minstrelsy of England.** A Collection of 200 English songs with their Melodies, popular from the sixteenth to the middle of the eighteenth century. Edited and arranged with pianoforte accompaniments by Alfred Moffat. Supplemented with historical notes by Frank Kidson. London and Glasgow: Bayley & Ferguson. 1901. iv x 320 pp. Price 4s. 6d. in cloth, 3s. in paper.

This book is stated to be "the outcome of an attempt to produce a representative selection of the songs of the English people, from the sixteenth century to the beginning of the reign of George III," and so far as this point is concerned, it is a perfect storehouse of the cream of the song books. A large number of the songs are taken from very rare books in the extensive library of Mr. Frank Kidson, and appear here for the first time in a modern collection. It is by far the most interesting and artistic of the collections devoted to the beautiful early songs of England, and possesses a very considerable additional value in the

historical notes supplied by Mr. Kidson. Some of these are very interesting, and the long note devoted to the history of the origin of "God save the King" should appeal with peculiar force at the present time, when so much is being said and written concerning the King and the coronation. If Mr. Kidson's contention is correct that James Oswald, a Scottish musician, wrote the melody of "God save the King," it is becoming more and more evident that the northern part of Great Britain contributes far too large a share of important items to the national anthology. The words of "Rule Britannia," the words and melody of "God save the King," and the words and melody of "Auld Lang Syne" are rather extraordinary tributes to the power of the smallest corner of the British Isles, and its influence in making the "dominant-partner" swallow its productions. But this is by the way. Every library should possess this admirable collection of English music, with its wealth of fresh and beautiful melodies, erudite notes, and appropriate and artistic accompaniments by Mr. Alfred Moffat.

**Part I. of the Songs of a child, and other poems,** by "Darling" (Lady Florence Douglas, now Lady Florence Dixie). London: Leadenhall Press, Ltd. n.d. [1901]. xiv × 312 pp. Price 2s. 6d. and 7s. 6d. (Edition de Luxe).

This is the first part of the juvenile poems of Lady Florence Dixie, the well-known writer and traveller, written between the ages of ten and seventeen. Some are good, some bad, and few rise above the commonplace. A number of the poems deal with scenes and subjects connected with the Solway district of Dumfriesshire, but none of the dialect poems, of which there are several, have even the merit of accuracy, which might, at least, have been expected from an acute observer of ten or seventeen.

"That loife which the guid God does gie  
To fash, an' burd, an' beast,  
He'd rayther spare, nae see it dee  
To mak' for mon a feast."

This is a mixture of Yorkshire and Irish, and in no way resembles the dialect of modern Dumfriesshire, even as spoken by the natives of Cummertrees. Nevertheless, the book shows a keen sympathy with animal life in all its varieties, and a surprising range of interests in one so young.

**Swiss life in town and country.** By Alfred Thomas Story. London: George Newnes, Ltd. 1902. *Illus.* pp. x + 248. Price 3s. 6d., net.

This is another of Messrs. Newnes' handy series entitled "Our Neighbours," and gives a good, though necessarily brief, account of modern Switzerland, its education, literature, politics, government, social life, &c. No special mention is made of a Public Library system, and Switzerland stands, in this respect, on the same plane as most European countries; having plenty of educational institutions, but no Public Libraries apart from those attached to colleges and other centres of a like nature. The index in this volume is somewhat more complete

than that in the recent Dutch volume noticed in these columns, though it does not err on the side of fulness. On the whole, these little illustrated monographs are among the best and most popular summaries existing of the life and manners of our continental neighbours.

**The Complete Ceremonies and Procedures observed at the Coronation of the Kings and Queens of England.** [1902.]  
Boot & Son and the Yöst Typewriter Co., Ltd. Price 6d.

A useful little handbook detailing the ceremonies connected with the Coronation Service at Westminster Abbey, and the various officers rendering feudal homages and services.



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE April monthly meeting of the Library Association, was held at Hanover Square, on Thursday, April 17th, at 8 p.m., when a fair number of members and visitors assembled. Mr. Alfred Lancaster, of St. Helens Public Libraries, was elected to the chair, and after some preliminary business had been disposed of, Mr. L. Stanley Jast, of the Croydon Public Libraries, read his paper on "OPEN ACCESS." This proved to be an exceedingly able, temperate and well written, presentation of the case for the adoption of a policy of open access to shelves in every department of Public Libraries, reference or lending. The main contention of Mr. Jast's paper was that development along the lines of open access was the best policy for future application, as stagnation had resulted from the tendency to adhere to methods which were old and unsusceptible of much improvement, even twenty years ago. He pointed out that open access was a mere incident in the universal law of evolution, and that this particular policy itself, which was only slowly becoming more perfect, might in time be superseded by something more capable of meeting public demands and educational requirements.

The resulting discussion was interesting and generally moderate in temper, and thoughtful in tone; a result which would have been impossible of accomplishment two or three years ago. Mr. Doubleday (Hampstead) opened the debate with a guarded approval of open access, and was followed by Mr. Hulme (Patent Office Library), who voiced the view of a State Department as to the utility of the system in reference libraries. Mr. Brown (Finsbury) read some interesting statistics to show the really extraordinary progress made all over the world in the adoption of the policy of open access, and Mr. Cotgreave (West Ham) stated that, in his opinion, any advantage which open access may give, was largely discounted by the illegible and imperfect titles on the backs of books. Mr. Duckworth (Worcester) spoke of

the benefits which had been felt at Worcester by the adoption of open access, and said that the statements circulated against the method should be received with great caution, as they almost invariably referred to libraries managed on entirely different lines to those practised in English safe-guarded libraries. Mr. A. Clarke (R.M. and C.S. Library) supported open access, and then Mr. Frowde (Bermondsey) spoke strongly against it, chiefly on the grounds of extensive losses from the Bishopsgate Institute and certain American libraries. In connection with Mr. Frowde's remarks about the Bishopsgate Institute, Mr. Brown, of Finsbury, denied that he had anything to do with the original planning or arrangements of that library; and Mr. Doubleday elicited the information that the American libraries mentioned by Mr. Frowde were not safe-guarded libraries at all, and that the alleged losses were simply statements of the number of books missing from the shelves at a particular date, many of which were subsequently returned. At this point in the discussion Mr. Cotgreave stated that he had heard that several American libraries employed detectives to watch their open access departments. It would be interesting to have this statement confirmed, or denied, from America. The discussion was continued by Messrs. Savage, Austin, Inkster, Potter, Soper, and Lancaster; and Mr. Jast replied in a very effective manner on the whole debate.

The marked change in the tone and general proceedings of this Association will be welcomed by everyone who has its interests and those of library progress at heart, and it is hoped that the same consideration and moderation will be conspicuous when Mr. Cotgreave reads his paper on "Indicators" at the May meeting.

A Special General Meeting of the Library Association was held at Stoke on March 19th. The members met at the Free Library at 10 a.m., and proceeded to Minton Hollins' Tile Manufactory, and Minton's (Limited) China and Earthenware Manufactory, being conducted over both works. The delegates were received at 2.30 p.m. at the Town Hall by the Mayor (Mr. T. R. Yoxall), who was accompanied by the Deputy Mayor (Alderman E. J. Leadbeater), the Town Clerk (Mr. J. B. Ashwell), Alderman F. Geen, Councillors Harding, W. B. Hackney, J. Gibson, E. Brooks, Emery, Mellor, &c. The delegates present were Messrs. Potter Briscoe (Nottingham), Madeley (Warrington), Linaker (Nottingham), Walker (Longton) Powell, Cohen, and Scarse (Birmingham), Hitchman (Kettering) Hempton (Newcastle), Milward (Hanley), Hutt (Liverpool), Caddie (Stoke), Mr. and Mrs. Drinkwater (Middlewich), Miss Taylor and Miss Hurley (Newcastle), and Miss Taylor (Waterloo, Liverpool).—The meeting was called to discuss a proposal made at the annual conference of the Association in September last in a paper read by Mr. Caddie (Stoke), for the co-operation of small towns for the establishment of reference libraries. The suggestion received considerable support at Plymouth, and it was decided to hold a special meeting to further consider it. The Potteries being regarded as a district peculiarly suited to the adoption of the proposal, the meeting was held at Stoke.

The discussion was mainly on the question of abolishing the rate

limit, uniting the Potteries into one municipality, and on the advantages of centralising the work. Some of the Potteries librarians were by no means in favour of Mr. Caddie's proposals for co-operation would work in practice.

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#### BIRMINGHAM AND DISTRICT LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE members of this Association met at West Bromwich on April 16th. In the afternoon the premises were taken over Oak House Museum by Mr. J. A. P. (head master of the Science Schools), and were afterwards entertained to a cold collation in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Buildings by the Mayor of West Bromwich (Councillor J. H. Cheshire). Subsequently a business meeting was held under the presidency of Alderman Blades (West Bromwich). Mr. R. K. Dent (Aston) introduced a paper on "Open Access, and some of its Advocates," in which he spoke generally in condemnatory terms of the system. A lengthy discussion followed, the majority speaking unfavourably of the open access system, on the ground that it created a good deal of confusion in the conduct of the library, and resulted in many books being lost.

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#### LIBRARY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALASIA.

IT has been determined by the General Council of the Library Association of Australasia to hold the next meeting of members in Melbourne, commencing on April 2nd, 1902. It is proposed to open the conference by a conversazione and exhibition of rare books, MSS., engravings and maps, and other articles of interest to the library world. The following three days will be occupied with the discussion of papers on subjects concerning library work, and anything incidental to it.

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#### SOCIETY OF PUBLIC LIBRARIANS.

At a meeting of this society held at the Bishopsgate Institute on Wednesday evening, April 9th, Mr. C. W. F. Goss, the Librarian, read a paper on "Descriptive Cataloguing," based on the work recently published by the Governors of the Bishopsgate Foundation. An interesting discussion followed, lasting upwards of an hour.

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#### NORTHERN COUNTIES LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE first Quarterly Meeting for the year of the above Association was held at the Central Public Library, Leeds, by invitation of the Vice-President, Mr. T. W. Hand, F. R. Hist. Soc., Chief Librarian. Councillor Bowling, Chairman of the Leeds Public Library Committee, welcomed the members, and at the close of the conference entertained the members to tea. The following members were

present :—Mr. Basil Anderton, B.A., Newcastle (President); Mr. T. W. Hand, Leeds (Vice-President); Mr. B. R. Hill, Sunderland (Auditor); Mr. J. W. C. Purves, Workington (Hon. Sec.); Messrs. Wm. Andrews, F. R. Hist. Soc., Hull; J. M. Dowbiggin, Lancaster; Butler Wood, Bradford; W. F. Lawton, Hull; Baker Hudson, Middlesbrough; Ed. Green, Akroyd Park, Halifax; G. W. Byers, Harrogate; Arkill Jude, Church Institute, Newcastle; J. Walton and W. Gibson, Newcastle; J. Harrison, Sunderland; W. H. Smith, Dewsbury; A. Tait, Leeds Institute; and R. McLeannan, J. W. Walker, G. W. Strother, N. Treiving, and W. Proctor, of the Leeds Public Libraries.

The minutes of the meeting held at Newcastle-on-Tyne having been read and signed, the business of the Executive Committee was reported, the recommendations and resolutions being as follows:—

That the next meeting be held at Harrogate, early in July, by invitation of the Public Library Committee.—Agreed.

That the Annual Business Meeting for the election of officials and committee be held as usual at the Annual Conference of the Library Association, September 22nd, 1902. The method of election to stand over for discussion at the Harrogate Meeting.

That the best paper sent in for the assistants' competition was by "Darna" (Mr. D. W. Hardman, Newcastle-on-Tyne Public Library), to whom the prize, value £2, is awarded.

The committee also decided that they themselves would give a second prize, value 10s. 6d., for the paper sent in by "Evo" (Mr. O. C. Hudson, Middlesbrough).

Mr. Butler Wood opened a discussion on the "Collection of Local Literature for the Reference Library," special attention being drawn to the value of pamphlets and their method of filing for ready reference. The methods adopted and appliances used at Leeds and Bradford were shown. An interesting discussion followed, Messrs. Anderton, Hand, Lawton, Hill, Smith, Hudson, and Purves taking part.

Mr. Wm. Andrews read the next paper, entitled "A Plea for the Novel in Public Libraries." This paper showed exclusively that the argument against the purchase of novels for Public Libraries had another side to it. Mr. Andrews reviewed some of the changes in our social life and systems brought about through the novel. A discussion followed, and Mr. Andrews promised to supplement his paper for another meeting.

An adjournment was then made to visit the City Art Gallery, the new Woodhouse Moor Branch Library, opened on March 12th, and the Leeds Institute of Science, Art, and Literature. Members were received at the latter institution by the Vice-President, and conducted over the building by the Secretary, Mr. Arthur Tait.

The meeting was resumed at the Central Library by Mr. Hand (in the absence of the writer) reading a paper by Mr. Whiteley, Halifax, entitled "Some Remarks on Book Classification and Library Methods."

Several new catalogues were exhibited on a reading-stand with metal base, a

After tea an entertainment was arranged by Mr. G. W. Strother and the Library Staff. The names of the speakers were T. Firth, H. Armstrong, J. S. H. and G. W. Strother. Votes of thanks were given to Mr. Tait, and the vocalists concluded the meeting.

Mr. Hand produced a new and useful contrivance. Then, the programme being over, the members of the Leeds who took part were Messrs. N. Treliving, W. Proctor, and the Hon. Councillor Bowling, Mr. Hand, and the vocalists. A very enjoyable and practical

#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

UNDER the guidance of Orlando Furioso, who, as usual, uttered sundry loud blasts on his enchanted horn when cornered by the enemy, the Pseudonyms met to discuss "SOME POINTS IN BOOK SELECTION." Many points were touched upon, such as the difficulties and disappointments of selecting books from publishers' printed titles without examination; the balance to be preserved between lending and reference libraries, central and branch libraries; the inutility and misleading character of reviews; and the unwillingness of publishers to give facilities for the proper examination of expensive works; but the greater part of the debate was devoted to the question of "DOUBTFUL BOOKS." Around this point a perfect torrent of eloquence and assertion raged, chiefly on the questions of the responsibility of librarians and committees in the stocking and circulation of books of a supposed immoral tendency, and as to what constituted an immoral book. Tristram Shandy expressed the opinion that it was no part of the duty of a Public Library authority to supervise the reading of young people, or in any way to usurp the functions of parents in this respect. It was the business of a library to supply every recognised masterpiece of literature likely to be required by students or general readers, and not to act as dry-nurse or governess to the youth of both sexes, who, in London and other large towns, were particularly well adapted to take care of themselves, and, if called upon, even to teach their grannies the noble art of sucking eggs.

With this opinion many of the librarians agreed, but the non-librarian members offered a stout opposition, chiefly on the ground that too much laxity, or the entire lack of municipal supervision, would lead to the corruption of the moral tone of the younger readers. The Antiquary pointed out that so-called immoral works of fiction were divisible into two main classes:—(1) The novels which painted immorality or vice in alluring and attractive colours, calculated to seduce the unsophisticated and innocent who had not as yet eaten apples from the Tree of Knowledge. (2) The novels which pictured immorality or vice in the most repulsive and minatory form, even when so realistic and coarse as to describe what the other class simply hinted at, or showed through a medium of gauze. He said that he would sooner let youths and maidens read Zola than Ouida.



This sentiment was received with applause, and approved by several members, but later in a somewhat modified form, when it was asked if a parent, who was also a man-of-the-world, would be likely rather to trust his young daughter with "Moths" or with "Nana"!

A speaker, whose pseudonym has escaped the reporter's memory, owing to his intervention in the debate at a very late hour, stated that the whole question was more practical than either moral or sentimental. If a library was so well conducted as to maintain a separate juvenile department, and circulated with discrimination all books which dealt in a free way with the facts of life, no harm could possibly result from stocking such works for the benefit of genuine inquirers. It was absurd, he said, to hold that municipal libraries must confine their selection of books to nursery and drawing-room works, which presented literature and science in an emasculated and inaccurate form. Logically speaking, it would be most harmful to circulate nursery textbooks of physiology, on the ground that they were merely *suggestive*, and not fully descriptive. No librarian, in this speaker's opinion, would take the responsibility of circulating hurtful or improper literature among the young, and as a matter of fact he believed that the whole case of the prudish section was grossly exaggerated and based upon pure imagination. No English Public Library, to begin with, possessed such works as were mentioned, to any appreciable extent; and in most cases, where they did have a stock of Erotica, it was strictly reserved for the use of the committee! There was a great danger, he stated, that in all this anxiety to rear the youth of the country in a state of helpless and dangerous innocence, the adult members of the community, who had to find the money to support Public Libraries, would be overlooked and neglected. Was it proposed to deny the clergyman, or doctor, or merchant, or schoolmaster, or mechanic, or shopkeeper of mature years the right to read Rabelais, or Boccaccio, or Fielding, or Swift, or Zola, or Balzac, or De Foe, simply because such works *might* stray into the hands of juvenile readers? Such a proposal he regarded as absurd, and really beneath serious notice.

The final outcome of the debate was rather indeterminate, but it was generally agreed that if effective means were taken to prevent doubtful or very strong and outspoken books from falling into the hands of readers under twenty-one years of age, a Public Library did all that could be morally required of it to regulate the reading of its immature clients, provided that nothing admitted could be objected to on the score of being bad literature, inaccurate science or obscene sociology.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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## LIBRARIANS AS SECRETARIES.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

SIR—The Correspondence Column in your publication does not command much attention. Last August I sent a query, and you kindly put it in the October issue. It was this—"Can any reader give a list of libraries where the librarian is also secretary?"

It is now March, and yet, apparently, no one can (or will) answer the question. We get a lot of correspondence about cataloguing and different systems, but when information is wanted, it is not forthcoming. It certainly makes one say what is the use of asking. I must suppose it is apathy, for I cannot think that out of all the librarians who subscribe to your magazine *not one* can answer my question.

I particularly want the answer, yet, with all the resources in England, it fails to appear,

Yours obediently,

WM. OSBORN, *Librarian.*

Durban, Natal, *March 8th, 1902.*

[It is not so easy as Mr. Osborn supposes to supply the information he seeks. In fact, owing to the absence of any return or official list, and the great variety of conditions under which library committees work in this country, it is practically impossible to give complete particulars. Generally speaking, all the Scottish municipal librarians act as clerks or secretaries to their committees, because by the Scotch Act, the library committee is an independent authority with a full delegation of power to administer the libraries. In England, the librarian is usually clerk to his committee in cases where the library committee acts as the library authority, but in most other cases the town clerk or one of his staff acts in this capacity. Subject to correction we believe the following are cases in which the librarian also acts as clerk :—

All Scottish Public Libraries (save Glasgow ?)  
 Manchester  
 Southampton  
 Hampstead  
 Battersea  
 Finsbury  
 Brighton  
 Kingston-on-Thames  
 Wimbledon  
 Leigh, Lancashire

At one time all the London librarians acted as secretaries, but since 1900 this has been changed. We shall be glad to publish corrections or additions to the above imperfect list. It is well that English librarians should assist their colonial brethren whenever possible—*Ed* ]



## THE SMALL LIBRARY: ITS FORMATION, EQUIPMENT, & MANAGEMENT.

By JAMES DUFF BROWN, *Librarian, Finsbury Public Libraries.*

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THE claims of the small library on the attention of librarians have been so completely overshadowed by those of the more showy and, in many respects, more important, large library, that comparatively little literature of a useful kind exists relating to book collections in their early stages of development. By small library is meant the small general collection of books numbering from 200 to 5,000 volumes, such as is gathered by private individuals, schools, churches, commercial firms, and other agencies, to which books are either tools, or a valuable means of affording recreation. As a rule, such collections are formed without much regard to order or care in selection, save in the case of the special libraries of private collectors, and the majority of the small libraries are, accordingly, very heterogeneous in their contents and hopelessly primitive in their methods. The same is unfortunately true of many of the smaller Public Libraries of this country, which are ill-proportioned, ignorantly selected and thoroughly unsatisfactory heaps of literary refuse. If anyone is sufficiently curious and patient to study the catalogue of the average small British subscription, private or semi-private library, he will be surprised by the revelations therein made of bad judgment in selection, and an extraordinary lack of proportion between class and class, author and author, and subject and subject. No attempt is made in such libraries to keep in touch with modern scientific, artistic, historical, social or literary progress, because most of the limited funds available for this purpose are squandered in the provision of third-rate fiction and the cheapest kinds of elementary primers. The ambition to place as many books on the shelves in the shortest space of time is responsible for the poor quality of the literature stocked by the average small library. Instead of purchasing and adding with care and attention to quality, such libraries practically accept anything which comes their way, whether in the shape of donations or purchases, and they would probably house a well-bound grocer's price list with as much alacrity as an edition of Shakespeare or any other literary masterpiece.

Most librarians of large municipal libraries are aware of the many difficulties connected with the formation and equipment of small libraries, as they are constantly being asked for advice on some point or another relating to book selection or library planning, and although attempts have been made from time to time to aid in the work of establishing small libraries on good and successful lines, very little has been published in an accessible form. The writer's own experience has proved that the need exists for some kind of suggestive guide to the management of small libraries, ranging in size from the nursery

collection of tattered toy-books, to the library of several thousand volumes possessed by institutions of various kinds. For over twelve years the writer has been bombarded by owners or custodians of private or small public libraries, with questions relating to the selection of books, plans of arrangement, furniture, fittings, financial matters, catalogues, classification and registration, so that a considerable experience of the requirements of small libraries has been gathered, which may prove useful to others if published in a simple and accessible manner. This, then, is the sole reason for attempting a series of papers designed to aid in the work of forming and keeping small libraries, on lines which will be found fairly satisfactory if properly applied, and capable of expansion in any direction if necessary.

Philosophers in various ages have informed us that a man may be recognised as regards his idiosyncrasies and habits by the company he keeps, the clothes he wears, the food he eats, and so on; but for our particular purpose it is best that he be measured and judged by the books he stocks. It is very surprising, considering the vast number of books produced, how little real influence literature has on the life and concerns of the ordinary man. If journalistic literature be excluded, it is doubtful if books are used by more than one man in ten as they are intended to be used, namely, as machines or tools designed to simplify the multifarious details of every-day life. Take, for example, the case of the prosperous publican—we beg his pardon, the Licensed Victualler—who is best equipped with the material means required for library formation. His library, as a general rule, is quite childlike and elementary in appearance, and resembles the ordinary nursery library in being composed of unbound journals or literature in pamphlet form. Indeed, the vast majority of private libraries have a more or less strongly marked resemblance to the library of the child in being an unkempt and ragged assemblage of unbound ephemera. So with the licensed victualler. He relies entirely on the daily newspapers for his literary food, with perhaps, some more serious matter from a weekly trade journal and a dash of frivolity from the "Pink 'Un." But he makes no attempt to equip himself with books which would be of real value to him in the conduct of his business. He does not even acquire the elementary handbooks on the law of his trade, nor has he any particular interest in books which chronicle its history. Instead of utilising his commanding position as an associate of all kinds of men, and keeping himself to some extent acquainted with some of their hobbies, easily to be derived from certain useful books, he fritters away his time, money, and energy in cultivating the sportsman, the loafer, and the flash dandy, with never a thought to the influence he might exert if his mind were better furnished with the knowledge to be gained from books. In this respect he resembles hundreds of tradesmen, shopkeepers, and clerks, who do not even take the trouble to make themselves acquainted with the literature bearing on their trades. What is the library of the average suburban home? A Bible, some unbound illustrated magazines, and, as a concession to literary culture, a few yellow-back novels, generally of the sensational or tittle-tattle

order. In many cases which have come under the writer's own observation the clerk dwelling in Suburbia, or anywhere else, does not take the trouble to furnish himself with a manual of book-keeping or business method which would undoubtedly increase his range of knowledge and fit him for a better position, nor does it even occur to him to expend a few shillings on a book which might enable him to cultivate with better success his miserable scrap of a back garden. Such men will spend pounds in constructing elaborate poultry hutches, and then proceed to devastate their stock because they prefer the imperfect instructions or hints of friends as wise as themselves, to the clear and simple directions to be found in any ordinary book on the management of fowls. Or, as is just as likely, they never dream of inquiring if any book on their particular trade or hobby exists. Even the Public Library has not yet eradicated the belief, prevalent in many minds, that books are not written on every conceivable subject. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, if we except the habitual users of Public Libraries, no man or woman dreams of consulting books for even the most elementary information. It is extraordinary when one considers how ignorant a vast majority of the people are with regard to the valuable information stored in books, and how necessary it is, therefore, that the small library should be forced to become a more potent and influential factor in the daily life of the general public.

The most elementary form of small library is that which belongs to the Baby who, as yet, has not acquired the art of reading. He or she—it matters little how they are named, as both are clad alike in petticoats and bibs—prefers the pictorial tale of love or glory, or treatise on natural history, or handbook to the labyrinth of the alphabet. Parents, as a rule, exercise very little care in the selection of the first toy-books for their children, if, indeed, they purchase any at all, and both children and parents are equally indifferent to the fate of the books during their brief and tumultuous existence. These are both fundamental mistakes in the training of the young. It is not only important that only the most artistic and amusing picture-books should be chosen, but that some means should be taken to preserve the books from wanton destruction. It is bad enough to see a common, garish, and inartistic book being used to wipe the floor or thrash the fender, but it is positively criminal to allow the works of Walter Crane, Randolph Caldecott, and Kate Greenaway—to name no others—to be used in this cruel manner by youngsters who have not been taught to discriminate. In buying books for young children, therefore, care should be taken to select only those which have high artistic value, or which give accurate delineations of natural and familiar objects, rather than those cheap and nasty productions which in colour and design are second cousins to the mock valentines of our youth. It may be noted that, when a baby's interest in pictorial literature begins to abate, or to assume a destructive form, an old newspaper makes a most effective substitute for a picture-book. A baby brought up on artistic pictures is being insensibly endowed with a valuable perceptive faculty, which will have

influential results in every process of his future training. One who is reared on trash will inevitably degenerate into a worshipper of the horse-hair and mahogany standard in life, culture, and morals.

There is little to be said with regard to the administration of the Baby's Library. If publishers would issue books designed for very young children, printed on tough paper of good quality, and strongly sewn in flexible linen cases, they would not be so easily marked out for immediate destruction as the books issued on non-fibrous paper, and held together by a modicum of bookbinder's paste. Till this reform is general, parents can only be advised to beg their babies to respect the deficiencies of British and German publishers! The storage of toy-books, which are generally of a quarto size, 12 by 9 inches and under, is simple enough. Few babies have more than six at one time, and they can easily be stored in a convenient drawer. If they accumulate in number, and they are worth preserving, as many of them are, they should be transferred to a suitable shelf in the household book-case, or failing that, stowed away in a dry cupboard away from cheese, or other odorous substances.

(To be continued.)



## SOME NEW LIBRARY BUILDINGS.—III.

### THE PATENT-OFFICE LIBRARY.

THE opening of the new library of the Patent-Office referred to in our February issue may now be supplemented by the following account of the building extracted from the *Engineer* and revised by Mr. Hulme. The collection of books and specifications has crept up, until at the present time it is the most complete scientific library in the land, possessing that inestimable advantage to readers of free access to the volumes. The number of books on the shelves at the end of 1901 amounted to 100,000, and they include in their range nearly every subject which it is conceivable might be consulted in connection with patents and artistic designs and trade marks, and not a few which seem altogether outside the pale of a patent-office. The subjects not included are omitted because it is not considered advisable that they should appear on shelves entirely open to the public. As is well known by all who use the library, not only was there insufficient shelf-room for this large number of volumes in the old library, but the building itself was open to considerable objections on the score of convenience and ventilation. In all these respects the new library promises to be all that can be desired. It consists of a lofty hall over 139 ft. long by nearly 60 ft. wide. The floor of this hall is 10 ft. above the basement, and from the floor to the roof or ceiling is nearly 50 ft. The roof is entirely of iron and glass, and, being entirely unobstructed,

there is an abundance of light. The glazing of the roof is Pilkington glass. It has wire netting let into it, and does not collapse readily in case of fire. The side windows are fitted with electro-glaze, small rectangular panes bound together with a copper framework electrically deposited. They are very strong, and also fire-resisting. On each side of the hall there are two galleries extending the whole length, each, 19 ft. wide, and joined at the end by narrow passages. They are supported on cast iron columns, and are gained by cast iron stairs at each end. The ground floor and both galleries are fitted with shelves. From the ground floor to the first gallery is 14 ft. The ground floor is more elaborately furnished than the succeeding stages. The bookcases throughout are cast iron frames with hard wood shelves resting on adjustable brackets. They were invented by Mr. Lambert and made by Messrs. Lucy, of Oxford. They consist of narrow vertical supports, from which iron brackets carrying the shelves project. This openness has the advantage that there is less impediment to the light, and possibly also better ventilation of the volumes. They are quite readily adjustable when loaded with books, and the brackets are interchangeable throughout, and the shelves also on each level. The end uprights are slightly ornamental, the intermediate ones plain. On the ground floor the uprights facing the centre are screened by oak panels, which, in spite of the fact that the pillars supporting the galleries stand just in front of them, have a not unpleasing effect. Owing to the increase in the size of the library since the plans were made, it has been found imperative to provide more shelf accommodation than at first intended, both on the floor and in the galleries. A case has therefore been added between each of those behind the pillars in the galleries, and, as the latter are 14 ft. apart, this provides cases 7 ft. from centre to centre, or little, if anything, over 5 ft. 6 in. between the backs of the books in the intermediate spaces. As a narrow reading-table for each case is deemed a necessity, there is only just enough room to pass in and out amongst the shelves. This, however, is only the case in sections where there is little probability of many readers being at work together. In the busier sections on the ground floor there is far more space, intermediate shelves being introduced only in the specification section. Here, besides the tall stacks, there are numerous dwarf cases, and shelves for reference books, indices, &c., surrounding a central dais or rostrum. The latter is an octagonal platform raised sufficiently high to permit the clerical staff who occupy it to see into practically every part of the hall. It has a sloping top, on which the reference books may be laid. This is an excellent arrangement, as the staff can explain the use of the volumes or converse with the searchers over the rostrum. A telephone in this raised desk communicates with attendants in the galleries, and with the catalogue and receiving-rooms, &c. There are no high cases down the centre of the hall—only dwarf shelves, which contain the loose numbers of periodicals, and the tops of which can be used as tables. All these cases, as well as the rostrum, are in oak of a simple, substantial design, finished in the natural colour. The appearance of the library is distinctly

effective. It is entered by folding-doors at one end, concealed by an oak and glass screen, from the outer hall through a vestibule. A large clock is placed on the end wall over the door. On each side, and above the hall, are the administrative offices in Southampton Buildings. A corridor leads hence to the sale office in Quality Court, so that the searcher may go direct from the library and purchase the specifications he requires.

A few words must be said about the grouping of the books and the classification. It is hardly necessary to say that full advantage has been taken of the opportunities afforded by the change into a new building to render the searchers' and readers' work as easy as possible. The library is physically divided into two divisions by a couple of dwarf cases projecting towards each other across the central bay, at the fifth column from the entrance end. This division is carried up to the roof; and not only the shelves on the floor, but in the galleries above in the smaller section, are devoted solely to patent specifications, patent journals, and suchlike. The collection on the part of the galleries devoted to patents is arranged alphabetically by countries, commencing at Argentine, on the left of the entrance. The opposite side, from the fifth pillar to the door, contains American patents only.

The classification of periodicals is receiving particular attention, as it is desired to make the consultation of them more convenient than it has been in the old and the temporary buildings. As already mentioned, the dwarf cases across the central bay to the east of the rostrum are devoted to the current volumes and numbers, mostly put away in cases but a few distributed on the tables. The bound volumes of periodicals are shelved in the first gallery starting from the fifth column on the left side, and terminating with the eighteenth, counting currently round the end, on the right. They are arranged chronologically in classes, and a carefully compiled key and index lead the searcher by a class letter and shelf number to the volumes he requires. In a prominent position at the end of each bay a list will be hung showing at a glance the volumes contained in that bay, and a frame exhibiting the classes of periodicals temporarily allotted to the stack.

With regard to the text-books, a type-written key to the classification will be issued as soon as it is ready, similar to that used in the old buildings.

#### LEWISHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY

THE Lewisham Central Library was opened on the 23rd, 1901, by the Mayor of Lewisham. The library is situated in the High Road, near St. Andrew's Church. The building is a fine example of the terra cotta style, and is a most attractive and comfortable public room. It is divided into a spacious reading hall and a new





## LEWISHAM CENTRAL LIBRARY.

*Librarian, MR. THOMAS GRAHAM.*

*Architect, MR. A. R. HENNEL, A.R.I.B.A.*

rear are the reference library, the magazine-room, and librarian's office. Plenty of room is left for extension should it become necessary. Internally the library has a pleasing appearance, massive screens with lead lighting having been introduced between the arches of the central hall with considerable effect.

There is accommodation for about 30,000 volumes.

A special feature in the lending library is the classified show case erected on the counter.

It is really used in place of an indicator for the serious classes of literature, and automatically changes itself. As books are asked from it, others are brought from the shelves of the library and the spaces are again filled, eventually bringing before the readers the whole contents of the library. The system of charging is by cards.

The general daily papers are arranged in one alphabetical order round the walls of the newsroom. This gives immense satisfaction to the reader as no difficulty is felt in finding any paper that is wanted.

The weeklies and monthlies are placed in racks and are numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and on. In the central hall is fixed a general index to these periodicals, and anyone wishing to find, say the "Saturday Review," would by consulting this index see opposite the entry of that particular paper, M. R., 63, which means Magazine Rack, No. 63

The reference library which now contains 3,600 volumes is classified on a modified Dewey system. The catalogue will be on cards arranged alphabetically according to author, title, and subject.

Mr. J. Graham, the Chief-Librarian, commenced the organisation of the Lewisham Central Library in 1901, and during the four-and-a-half months to the time of opening had selected and purchased over 7,000 volumes, and also compiled the catalogue of 136 pp., which represents 8,623 volumes. Mr. Graham claims sixteen years' experience in Public Library work, having commenced his training in the Darlington Public Library in 1885.



### READING FOR THE BLIND.

By W. S. C. RAE, *Librarian, Public Library, Darwen.*

o o o

A CONSIDERABLE amount of uncertainty seems to exist among those who have thoughts of providing literature for the blind. We must all regret that blind people are neglected, as they have been, by many of our Public Libraries, the few who have attempted to do something in this direction having had to fight against difficulties which are almost unsurmountable.

From the number of papers which have appeared on the subject in our library journals, as well as in the press, one is inclined to think that the time has arrived for something definite being done to brighten the lives of our fellows who have been deprived of the most useful of the senses. The want of sight keeps them from enjoying many sports and pastimes, bars the way to success in nearly every business or profession, and leaves them at the mercy of those around them. Time hangs heavy on their hands, making them feel that they are a burden to their friends, as well as to themselves. When a similar feeling comes to us, we very often find solace in books; and for this reason, if for no other, it is the imperative duty of every librarian to do something by way of providing literature for the blind, and so help to make their lives more pleasant.

This question was raised at a recent meeting of the Darwen Library Committee, when it was decided to subscribe to the circulating library which is being formed by the British and Foreign Blind Association. Until the society has issued its rules, it is impossible to say whether its library will answer the purpose or not, but we are certain that amalgamation with one or more societies will be necessary, as the cost per volume, to say nothing of the space required, is too great to enable the ordinary Public Library to gain possession of anything like a sufficient number of volumes to satisfy its blind readers.

In the January-February number of the *L. A. Record* a report is given of a paper which was read at the January meeting of the Library Association by Mr. Harry Rowlatt. In this paper he appears to have come

to the conclusion that the only way to deal with this question is by getting the Association to take this matter into consideration, proposing that the Association invite all libraries in or near London to subscribe, say £10 annually, towards the initial outlay, and pay an annual subscription for additions, binding, &c. We would like to know why he asks the Association to do this, when there are already institutions which would be glad to take charge of the books, if a general movement was made by libraries to subscribe to a circulating library inaugurated by them? They would know in what proportion Moon type books should be represented, as compared with Braille or any other system. Why does Mr. Rowlatt restrict the establishment of this section to libraries in or near London? The blind, like the poor, are found everywhere.

The argument used against Public Libraries attempting to form a collection of books for the blind, is that of expense and space. Eight works of Dickens, Mr. Rowlatt informs us, would cost £50, and would be in ninety-five volumes, occupying the space of about 500 ordinary books.

In reading Mr. Rowlatt's paper, one cannot but regret that the article contributed to the *Library World* in February, 1900, had not been brought under his notice. In this paper we are given the experience of Bradford in providing reading for the blind. There they have a permanent collection of about seventy volumes, and to these are added about thirty more which are received from the National Lending Library for the Blind, and changed every two months. It is gratifying to know that the books provided are wide in their view, representing many schools of thought, and strong in tone. The writer also gives an instance of the cost of books, which is pleasant reading after the rather expensive list already referred to, given by Mr. Rowlatt. For the sum of £5 the Bradford Committee purchased "Songs for Soprano, Contralto and Tenor, and Contralto and Bass," 4 vols.; "Child Pianist, 1st Grade," 4 vols.; ditto, 2nd Grade, 4 vols.; "Teacher's Guide," 2 vols.; "Musical Notation"; Cassell's "French Exercises," 3 vols.; Bue's "French Grammar," 3 vols.; "Introductory Science Primer"; "Physical Geography," 2 vols.; "Geology," 2 vols.; "Sixty Years a Queen," 4 vols.; "The Reformation"; "Queen Elizabeth," 2 vols.; Tennyson's Poems, 2 vols.; Poems of Wordsworth, 4 vols.; and Shakespeare's "King Lear," 2 vols. —surely a splendid nucleus for a permanent collection of books for the blind.

Expense and space appear to us to be the objections raised when this question is proposed. To meet these objections it is necessary that whatever is done must be done collectively not independently. Librarians who recognise the need of having such literature will also be prepared to give sufficient shelf-room to keep say thirty standard works as a permanent collection, supplementing them by obtaining lots of about twenty volumes at a time from some circulating library. We are already promised a circulating library by the British and Foreign Blind Association; we also have the Incorporated National Lending Library

for the Blind, with a stock of over 4,000 volumes mentioned by Mr. Hartley in his paper printed in this journal. There are also institutions in our large cities which can aid us in this work, so that in a short time we should find in every Public Library a collection of books which should satisfy the blind people in towns, however few these may be, and so render it unnecessary for them to petition the powers that be (as has been the case in Bolton), before a move is made in the matter.



### LIBRARIANS AS SECRETARIES.



THE following additional information has come to hand in reply to the letter in our May number from Mr. W. Osborn. The librarians of the following places write to say they are secretaries :—

BLACKBURN, HORNSEY, LINCOLN, WOOLWICH.

Mr. Ballinger, of Cardiff, reminds us that he gave a complete list to date in his valuable "Report on the Constitution of Library Committees," read at Belfast in 1894, and printed in *The Library*, vol. 7, 1895. From this we compile the following list of libraries in connection with which the librarian acts as secretary, omitting any previously noted :—Ashton-under-Lyne, Barry, Bingley, Bournemouth, Bradford, Brierley Hill, Cambridge, Cardiff, Carnarvon, Chiswick, Cork, Devonport, Dewsbury, Doncaster, Dudley, Dundalk, Ealing, Gateshead, Gravesend, Halifax, Hanley, Harrogate, Hereford, Hindley, Hucknall, Torkard, Kendal, Leamington, Leominster, Longton, Maidstone, Mansfield, Millom, Northampton, Peterborough, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Richmond, Rugby, Runcorn, Sale, Sligo, South Shields, Stafford, Stoke-on-Trent, Swansea, Truro, Twickenham, Warrington, Watford, West Bromwich, Wick, Willesden, and Wolverhampton. According to Mr. Ballinger's tables, the Manchester librarian does not act as clerk—as noted last month. Out of over 200 places mentioned in these tables seventy-six employ the librarians as secretaries. No doubt many changes have since taken place, as in London, and a final list will not be available till the new edition of Mr. Thomas Greenwood's "Public Libraries" is published, which, we are informed, will be issued soon, in a greatly enlarged form.

## THE LADY ASSISTANT: A REJOINDER.

By FRANK E. CHENNELL, *Willesden Green.*

O O O

AS opener of the discussion on the above question, I have felt constrained to crave from the Editor the necessary space for this brief rejoinder to the comments of Miss Pierce upon my first article.

The lady says that she comes forward with "some hesitation" to raise objections to my statements. I can only assure her that it is with much trepidation that I venture to traverse her reply. I am compelled to do so from one motive only—my firm conviction that the lady has either not read, or has entirely misunderstood, my initial screed. It would be charitable to infer the latter, but I cannot refrain from thinking the former to be the case. This will perhaps be fairly apparent from the comparison of the two articles I feel I ought to make.

Miss Pierce first states that I suggest "two remedies for getting rid of the ubiquitous female: (a) "to substitute uneducated youths for educated girls," and (b) she has imagined that I advised the librarian to marry each of his lady assistants.

O blissful perversion of the truth! I subjoin the paragraph thus travestied from my first article, and will leave readers to draw their own conclusions:—

"Two simple and obvious remedies should suggest themselves to the would-be librarian. Either to outstrip his lady competitor in efficiency, or—to marry her!"

Surely no one but a lady librarian could construe this simple sentence in the light my Kettering friend has done! To the ordinary mind I think it will be difficult to discover, in this small paragraph, any suggestion of "substituting uneducated youths for educated girls," or any hint that our male librarians should adopt the liberal matrimonial customs of Turkey. The remuneration in our profession is already pitifully inadequate, and I shudder to contemplate the penury in which this latter course would involve each one of us. I must refer Miss Pierce to the phrase I actually used—"the would-be librarian"—and this, I trust, other readers have inferred, was addressed to assistants.

Then my critic gives, numerically, a list of points which I am supposed to have missed. In every instance I will take but the pith of each of her paragraphs. This for brevity:—

(1) "He is," she says, "very strong all through his paper on the alleged inferiority of women to men in mental and physical attributes, and thinks that the coming of the lady assistant will mean a great deterioration in the work, pay, and calling of the librarian."

I will ask the lady, in all fairness, to look once again at my last article, and to acknowledge my extreme gallantry in positively refusing to express my "concerning the relative mental

development of the lad and the slightest mention in the possession, or the lack, of "physical" the probable harm to the profession

The writer next says that "I have entirely overlooked the great difficulty of obtaining lads in those which cannot afford

I have yet to learn that this difficulty exists. The trouble is, not so much to get the lad as to retain him. It has certainly occurred to me since writing my first article that many parents might possibly hesitate to place their lads in any institution controlled in part, or worked entirely, by women. This I can readily understand.

(3) Miss Pierce "is assured," she says, "by librarians who employ women that they are more reliable, honest, and steady than boys; that they remain in one place much longer on the average."

There is a delightful vagueness about that "assured by librarians." However, I do not contest the point involved. It does, though, cause me some wonderment that no one of these male librarians who has vouchsafed to Miss Pierce this comforting information has ventured to relieve her of the task of replying to the discussion. To the second statement in the paragraph I am dealing with, I can only say how easily I can comprehend that the librarian who engages lady assistants, is assuring himself of a longer period of service from them than would ensue from the appointment of lads. Miss Pierce herself infers that the girl will remain until she falls a "victim to matrimony," and, as it is said—with what truth I know not—that there is no point of age this side of the "yawning chasm" when the female mind abandons the hope of attaining this, to her, high-water mark of human felicity, it will be conceded that these librarians have some grounds for hoping to have solved, in some measure, the difficulty of the short service assistant.

(4) The writer next states that "she cannot find any trace of the introduction of women assistants having led to reductions in salaries. On the other hand *I know* (mine—the italics) that the women assistants at Bristol, Battersea, Clerkenwell, Bradford, Manchester and elsewhere are paid better than the corresponding grades of male assistants in other places."

It is always distressing to combat a woman's "*I know*." In this direction I will simply reply to Miss Pierce by quoting from one of many letters received by me after the appearance of the March issue of the *Library World*. It is certainly a little curious that the letter hails from one of the identical cities my lady friend mentions. The writer says:—

"After TEN years' experience in working with them" (girl assistants) "I cannot share the ardent belief in their qualifications expressed by some librarians. I honestly think that the real reason for their employment in these libraries, as in others, is the economic one. They are cheaper."

To use a banal phrase, further comment is needless. With ten years' experience my correspondent cannot be accused of arriving at this opinion with undue precipitation. I do not wish to be charged with vagueness myself, and so, though I may not publish the name of the writer of the letter, I have obtained from him, as a guarantee of good faith, permission to show it, if desired, to our worthy Editor.

(5) "Mr. Chennell has not taken to heart," says the lady, "the revelations of the last census."

So far as concerns my article this is true. I hardly consider it germane to the subject under discussion.

(6) I am challenged to point out "the living English male librarians who have done as much for library science generally as Mrs. Fairchild (Miss Cutler), Miss Hewins, Miss Plummer, Miss Sharp and the other American ladies, or Signora Sacconi-Ricci, lately a librarian in Florence."

This challenge genuinely surprises me. Its *naïveté* is charming. She surely does not seriously desire me to make such invidious distinctions between present day librarians as even the mention of a few names in a catalogue of this nature would involve? I will say this. I doubt whether the Public Library cause has ever had, at any period of its history, such an array of strenuous workers, and able, and deep thinking men, anxious to further its progress, as may be found in our own country at the present time. I will not, however, be inveigled into compiling a list of these worthies. If this lady, as a librarian, does not know them, I really cannot see that it is at all incumbent upon me to enlighten her.

She later, in the same paragraph, says:—

"There is no need to speak of the English women who have distinguished themselves as bibliographers, cataloguers, and indexers, because MR. CHENNELLSAYS THERE ARE NONE."

Shade of Machiavelli! In no portion of my previous paper did I either mention, or indeed infer, that no "Englishwomen have distinguished themselves as bibliographers, cataloguers or indexers." *En passant*, I will admit that their names do not occur to me in overwhelming numbers at the time of writing. Nevertheless, it is distinctly funny to read "Mr. Chennell says there are none." It would tend to the serious if it were true; as it stands it is only amusing.

(7), and last. My critic says "Mr. Chennell has not proved, nor attempted to prove that women deserve to be superseded in library work. He has only given utterance to certain fears based more on prejudice or imagination than on actual experience."

After reading this I am almost tempted to believe that I have erred in my premise that my critic has not read my earlier paper. I can see that the lady has some faint glimmering of the meaning I meant to attach to my humble effort. The whole of my argument was based upon the probable effect this increase of girl labour would have

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debauches in the "Eternal City" and the "Crisis," for the thousands of intemperates who are rushing to buy copies or begging his librarians for a sip.

A few days ago, when Mr. Carnegie felt his guilt weighing unusually heavy upon his conscience, he tried to charm his Afrite back into the bottle by uttering the following incantation: "If a man gives his fortune to endow libraries he might do well to bar fiction less than three years old." Librarians, editors, clergymen, and authors who have watched Mr. Carnegie's efforts with sympathetic interest, have promptly come to his rescue with various suggestions, relevant and irrelevant. The severer moralists would rule out fiction altogether; others approve of the three-year limit; Mr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, would make it one year; Mr. William E. Foster, of the Providence Public Library, would restrict the purchases of current fiction to, say, fifteen or twenty titles annually. Meanwhile our authors are running a neck-and-neck race to write, not the best, but the best-selling novel, and the members of our suburban literary clubs are in sharp rivalry to establish records for reading the largest number of popular books.

Mr. Carnegie can, of course, marshal many strong arguments in his support. To yield to the prejudice of those who would buy no novels at all is, in the last analysis, to admit the contention that Trow's "General Directory of the Boroughs of Manhattan and the Bronx," with its 1,499 pages of useful facts, is better than "Vanity Fair" as a means of sustaining and stimulating the soul. Laying aside such an extreme view, Mr. Carnegie is right in thinking that at the end of three years many of the poorest novels are as dead as those worthless products of the Minerva Press which Macaulay read with such avidity. For that matter, however, some of our highly praised fiction is so completely forgotten at the end of one year that it cannot die any deader; and Mr. Putnam's working rule would be almost as drastic as Mr. Carnegie's.

But if the circulation of fiction rises to 70 per cent. of the total, there is no cause for alarm. A good novel is one of the best of books. From the days of Homer to those of Thomas Hardy, the story, which presents the concrete, individual man and woman has rightly appealed more powerfully to all readers than the most brilliant generalisations of history and philosophy. Gibbon, whose "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" is surely solid enough to suit the most exacting taste, declared, "The romance of 'Tom Jones,' that exquisite picture of human manners, will outlive the palace of the Escorial and the Imperial eagle of the house of Austria." The poor novel, too, has its place in the divine economy. People who begin their literary education by reading the crudest of tales are likely to move steadily upward. The boy who is held thrall by "Old King Brady, or the Black Doctor's Plot," and the girl who cries over "Elsie Dinsmore," will both live to profit by the "Scarlet Letter," "Mill on the Floss," "A Tale of Two Cities," and "Vanity Fair." If Mr. Carnegie helps such progress, he can feel that his millions are well spent."

## LIBRARIES AND LIBRARIANS.

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[*Communications are invited for this column, which should be signed as an evidence of good faith, and marked "For Libraries and Librarians." Such signatures will not be published unless specially desired.*]

At the monthly meeting of the **Manchester** Corporation Free Libraries' Committee, held recently, a sub-committee was appointed to consider and report upon the best means of celebrating the jubilee of the establishment of Public Libraries in Manchester under the Public Libraries Act.

It was in July, 1852, that the question of the adoption of the Libraries Act, which had been passed in 1850, was brought before the City Council by the Mayor, Mr. R. Barnes. A poll of the ratepayers was taken on the question on the 20th August, when 3,962 of them voted for and 40 against the adoption of the Act out of a register of 12,500 voters. The Act of 1850, brought in by Mr. William Ewart, to enable Town Councils to establish Public Libraries and museums was not compulsory. It allowed local authorities to levy only a half-penny in the pound in the rates for the proposed purposes, and none of this was to be spent in books. When the Act was passed a number of influential men in Manchester took up the subject, raised a subscription of £12,823, purchased the Hall of Science, in Campfield, transformed it into a library, and stocked its shelves with 21,000 books. This establishment was transferred to the Corporation, and on the 2nd September, 1852, inaugural meetings were held in the library building, morning and evening; among the speakers on these occasions being W. M. Thackeray, Charles Dickens, Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton, John Bright, M.P., and the Earl of Shaftesbury. Four days later the library was opened to the public. Interesting notices of the foundation and early history of the Manchester Public Libraries will be found in Credland's work on the subject, and in Greenwood's recent "Life of Edward Edwards," who was Manchester's first librarian.

THE following is the text of the Bill which has been introduced in the House of Commons by Mr. Dillon to amend the **Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts**:—

Be it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. That this Act may be cited as the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1902, and shall be construed as one with the Public Libraries Act (Ireland), 1855, hereinafter referred to as the principal Act, and the Public Libraries (Ireland) Act, 1894.

2. The principal Act may be adopted for any district by the Rural District Council, and the provisions of the principal Act shall apply to such district as if it were a Public Libraries

(Ireland) Act, 1894, shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to such rural district and Rural District Council as if the same were an urban district and urban authority respectively.

3. On the adoption of the principal Act for a rural district the Rural District Council shall be the library authority for such rural district.

4. The amount of the rate to be levied in any district for which the principal Act is adopted shall not exceed the sum of twopence in the £1, and section 8 of the principal Act shall be amended accordingly.

5. Any library authority may enter into agreements with the managers of any school for the use of such school as a library, and for the care of the books and the management of the library, upon such terms as may be mutually agreed by and between such library authority and school managers.

6. Any County Council may, out of the funds at its disposal for technical education, make a grant in aid to any library authority for the purchase of books by such library authority, or towards the maintenance of any Public Library belonging to or established by any such library authority.

7. Libraries Offences Act, 1898, shall apply to any library established under the principal Act.

8. The provisions of the Public Libraries Act, 1901, enabling a library authority to make bye-laws, and otherwise relating to such bye-laws shall extend to Ireland, with the substitution of the Public Libraries (Ireland) Acts, 1855 to 1902, for the principal Act, and of sections 219 to 223 of the Public Health (Ireland) Act, 1878, for sections 182 to 186 of the Public Health Act, 1875, and of the expression "sanitary authority" for "local authority."

OUR friend, the *Library Assistant*, like Jacky in "It is Never Too Late to Mend," sees a "long way off behind him back," and, like that artless aboriginal, is not always reliable. For example: in 1898 the *Library World* chronicled the fact that the Duke of Devonshire had announced his intention of giving a library site, value £5,000 to **Eastbourne**, and in our April number for 1902 we stated exactly *where* the site was, as it has now been handed over. Furthermore, as 1898 is a "long way off behind him back," we took the liberty of mentioning the circumstance under which the gift was made. Nevertheless, we are obliged to the *Library Assistant* for kindly sub-editing the news department of our magazine—a supervision it sometimes needs, as we noticed recently that Penrith had been noted as a recent adoption of the Acts, while they were actually adopted in 1882! But we must not destroy our reputation as an oracle by further revelations.

By nearly 300 to 10 votes the burgesses of **Kingston-on-Thames** have voted an additional halfpenny in the pound for library purposes, a power which is vested in them by the local Act under which the library was originally established. This gives a rate of 1½d. out of a possible 2d., and the Library Committee will now be able to proceed with their

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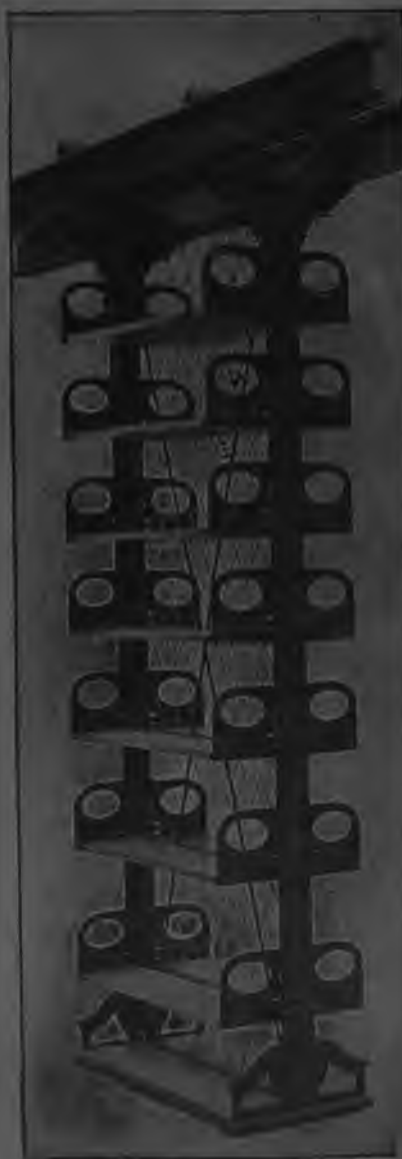


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building have already been considered, and a further report on the subject is to be submitted in due course. Several sites have been viewed by the committee, and it has finally been decided that the library shall be erected in the Mitcham Road at a cost of £5,000. Mr. Hunt, of Balham, is the architect.

THE Public Libraries (Scotland) Act has been rejected by the householders of the landward (*i.e.*, extra-burghal) part of the parish of **Ellon** by a majority of 100 to 69 votes. The burgh adopted the Act in 1899.

THE Annual Meeting of the **Guildford** Institute was held on Tuesday, April 8th. There was a large attendance of members. The balance-sheet showed a balance of 1s. 7d. Last year there was a debt of £1,020 on the building, which had been reduced by £20 during the year. The number of members was 1,540—a record. During the year 41,078 books were circulated, and only three were irrecoverably lost. The gifts to the institute during the year had been both varied and valuable. A vote of thanks was passed to the librarian (Mr. F. H. Elsley), who, it was stated, had been most assiduous in the discharge of his duties.

MR. EDWARD **McKnight**, Librarian of the Chorley Public Library, has been invited by the Congregational Union of England and Wales to read a paper on "The Old Hall, Gainsborough," at the celebration, in June, of the 300th anniversary of the foundation of the great separatist Church, from which sprang the Pilgrim Fathers. Mr. McKnight has made a special study of the history of the Pilgrim Fathers, and recently published a *brochure*, entitled "Myles Standish: the Captain of Plymouth."

MUCH sympathy will be felt for the relatives and friends of the late Mr. S. G. **Mattocks**, who went from England some time ago to take the assistant librarianship of the Public Library at Kimberley, and had just taken up the duties of the post when he was attacked by typhoid fever, to which he succumbed. Born at Rainham, Kent, he was in the twentieth year of his age and had received a special training in librarianship under Mr. Dyer at Kensington, proceeding thence to take an improved position at Hampstead, which he resigned on his appointment at Kimberley.

THE new branch library which the **Leeds** Corporation has provided for Armley and district was opened on April 17th, in the presence of a large number of ladies and gentlemen from various parts of the city. Armley is the first suburb to get a building for purely literary purposes. This building is entirely consecrated to literature, embracing, of course, the daily paper and the periodical, as well as the more permanent publications. From the year 1874 to the present day Armley has had the loan of books from the Central Library, these being issued on two or three evenings in the week from the Providence Sunday School.

Without despising the day of small things, the township has now an institution in which the residents may pardonably exult. It is drawn on model lines, not too showy on the exterior, but, like the leaden casket in the play, revealing fair features within. The style adopted is a free treatment of Renaissance, with dressings of Morley stone. The building stands at the corner of Stocks Hill and Wesley Place, and the principal entrance is surmounted by a clock tower, which also contains a water fan for extracting vitiated air from the apartments. The general reading-room is 60 ft. 9 in. by 76 ft., and there is a ladies' room, whilst on the lower floor is a comparatively new feature in the shape of a reading-room for juveniles 60 ft. 9 in. by 36 ft. Lighting and heating are both on the most approved principles. Mr. Percy Robinson, of Leeds, prepared the design for the structure, which has every appearance of being well fitted and equipped for full library purposes. The Public Libraries Committee have issued a very nice little "Souvenir" of the occasion, in the form of an illustrated pamphlet giving views of the building and portraits of the chairman, librarian (Mr. T. W. Hand) and others.

THE **Woolwich** Library Committee have approached the Woolwich Photograph Society, and have got a promise from them to present to the Woolwich Library annually an album of local views taken by their members.



## LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

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THE **Cardiff** Public Library Report, 1900-1901, shows an increase of nearly 100,000 in the combined issues of the lending libraries, and of 17,000 in the issues of the reference department. The school libraries issued 270,000. The librarian describes at length the Scott collection of 1,235 printed and 51 MS. volumes recently donated to the library by Mr. William Scott.

The **Cardiff Public Library Journal** (March) contains, among other interesting matter, a reading-list on "Robert Owen and his Works," and an article on "The Gaelic Renaissance," by M. E. Evans.

The energies of the **Watford** Public Library seem to be repressed by the Schools of Science and Music and the University Extension Society, for each of which it provides a home. Of course we do not know how much work the secretary has to do, nor do we know how much of the building the School of Science takes up; but it does seem to us that £143 for caretaking, cleaning, fuel, light, and secretarial work for sixteen classes, involving an account of over £2,100, is decidedly not "pretty good for high." Taken as a whole, there is enough energy in the management of this educational centre of Watford to run two or three Public Libraries and secondary schools; but under the present constitution much of it is dissipated, or, as we

would rather say, the activities of the various departments are slowly but surely internecine. Ponder this: to manage the afore-mentioned School of Science, the Public Library, a popular and important School of Music, and the Extension Lectures, there is a staff of librarian, lady assistant, and two boys. How is it done—and done so well? Last year's report stated that the sanction of the Local Government Board had been given to the borrowing of £7,000 for the enlargement of the library. The additions, however, have not been completed; the contractor seems to have made a mess of the whole business, and the committee have been empowered to deal with him under the contract "in such a way as shall seem to them most fit." The library now contains 8,812 volumes in the lending section, 101 of which are issued daily; and 5,157 in the reference section, where 1,754 were consulted in 10½ months.

The **Belfast** Public Library Report, 1901, gives the number of readers in the reference library for the year as 26,520, being 129 less than the previous year; and the number of volumes issued as 56,883, being 1,738 less than the previous return. There is a short list of works most in demand in this department; Cicero's Letters comes out top with 303, Ramsay's "Manual of Roman Antiquities" follows with 220. In the lending library the issue for the year was 191,561 being 2,537 more than that of the previous year. The books most in demand were Corelli's "Master Christian" and Besant's "Fourth Generation."

There is always much that is interesting in an American report. We wonder sometimes whether the libraries there live eleven months in the year for the purpose of making a good report in the twelfth. But the one before us, **Detroit**, 1902, is distinctly good. The library was never so largely used as during the past year, and never before had so many individual patrons. A plan was put into operation whereby the public was given free access to the shelves in two alcoves of English fiction. This was accomplished by cutting an opening through the counter, in which was placed an exit turnstile, with the desk of an attendant beside it for charging the books selected as people passed out. An entrance turnstile was placed at the end of the counter. The shelves of these two alcoves hold upwards of 3,000 books, and they are kept constantly filled with the more recent novels, including one copy of all the best-advertised ones—a sorry mode of selecting, eh? Books are not specially marked for these alcoves, but the aim is to keep the shelves filled, so that people may have a considerable number from which to make selections. The plan is highly satisfactory to most persons. It is a privilege which many appreciate, to take down books from the shelves and look them over before making a choice. At the same time, there are some who do not like it. They become confused in the presence of such an array of books. They prefer to consult the catalogue or to trust the library assistants to choose for them, rather than spend their time in the open alcoves. But it must be said that the majority like the new scheme. A record kept for a time showed that about 60 per cent. of the fiction circulated came from the two

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play, &c. This expectation has not been realised in the case of the book under notice,\* which only gives about one-third of its space to the practical side of the question. There are a number of gossip chapters on the history, humours, and literature of indexing, but very little to justify a title like "*How to Make an Index*." Only book-indexes seem to be considered by the author, and on this point his information and instruction are not particularly full or valuable. The most important section of the whole subject, from the practical point of view, namely, *how* to make an index, is dismissed by Mr. Wheatley in about thirty or forty pages of his book, and thus the purchaser of the work, who hopes to be initiated in all the minutiae of the practical side of index-making, is certain to be disappointed. Why cannot a book on Indexing be produced which will confine itself strictly to the methods of compilation; varieties of form for different purposes; the materials required; the storage of MS. indexes, and so on; and not waste space and disappoint hopes by enlarging on a comparatively useless side of the question. Should a new edition of this book be required, we hope the author will considerably enlarge his hints on practical index-compilation, at the expense of the historical side of the subject, which he has allowed to usurp the chief place in a handbook which might otherwise have been helpful and suggestive.



## LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS.

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### THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

THE last monthly meeting of this Association was held at 20, Hanover Square, on Thursday, 15th May, at 8 p.m., when Mr. L. S. Jast, of Croydon, was elected to the chair. There was a fair attendance, and, after the transaction of some formal business, Mr. Alfred Cotgreave, Librarian of West Ham, read a paper on *Indicators*. This consisted chiefly of a review of the main objections which had been raised to the indicator from time to time, and these the author proceeded to demolish *seriatim*. In addition to his paper Mr. Cotgreave had collected and placed on exhibition a very representative and interesting series of indicator models, besides which he had printed and circulated in advance an illustrated pamphlet briefly describing the principal forms of indicators, for some of the materials of which he expressed his indebtedness to the articles which appeared some time since in the *Library World*.

\* "*How to Make an Index*." F  
E. Stock. ("Book-Lovers' Library.")

B. Wheatl.  
S. Price

1902.

The resulting discussion was exceedingly poor and lifeless, no doubt because the subject was so extremely hackneyed. Mr. Doubleday (Hampstead), while approving of the indicator, expressed some concern for the dimensions it was likely to assume by reason of continued progressive growth, and stated that this seemed to furnish a strong reason for the periodical weeding-out of obsolete books. By this means the indicator would be kept within bounds and the stock revised and improved. Mr. Brown (Finsbury) said he approved of the indicator, if only as a capital mental exercise. To invent one required that full consideration should be given to every aspect of charging and registration, and he recommended every librarian to invent a new indicator, if only as a certain means of discovering and solving many problems connected with library management. Mr. Mason (St. Martin's, Westminster) also spoke, and a vote of thanks to Mr. Cotgreave was moved by Mr. Jast (Croydon), seconded by Mr. Plant (Shoreditch), and carried unanimously. It was announced during the meeting that a monthly meeting would be held at Richmond in July, while no meeting would be held in London in June. Professor W. Macneill Dixon, LL.B., of Birmingham University, is the new President-Elect of the Library Association.

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#### THE PSEUDONYMS.

THE Egoist took the chair at the concluding dinner of this club for the present season, when a paper by Ossian on "Nothing in Particular" was fully discussed. The discussion followed the lines of the paper, and the result was the same. It was resolved to indulge in a series of rambles in picturesque districts of Surrey and Middlesex, and unanimously decided that only one map and one guide should accompany each expedition. This step was considered necessary because of certain discrepancies between the local knowledge, or assumption of knowledge, on the part of some guides, and the topographical information, collected at great national expense, and with a lavish use of trigonometry, by the Ordnance Survey. Thereafter the members set about the task of completing their "Handbook of Nickel-plated Aphorisms," first commenced in 1899\*, with the following results:—

#### NICKEL-PLATED APHORISMS OF THE PSEUDONYMS.—II.

- 14.—In all controversial matters side with the majority. It may be a weak course, but supplies one undeniable argument: Everybody does it.
- 15.—All library methods which are publicly condemned by librarians, but adopted on the quiet, are good and valuable.
- 16.—  
A newspaper late  
Makes readers irate.

\* *Library World*, vol. 2, p. 52.

- 17.—When a librarian becomes suddenly energetic and attentive to his committee and readers, he is salting the ground for a "rise."
- 18.—Librarians rarely write to each other unless they are in quest of information. "Let brotherly love continue."
- 19.—The librarian who "hasn't time to read" or to catalogue his library properly, is generally an expert at billiards, cycling, or ping-pong.
- 20.—"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast": which is probably the reason why so many librarians avoid discussions at conferences, but never miss the smoking concerts.
- 21.—When library assistants obtain chief posts, their interest in educational movements, the open door, and self-culture mysteriously vanishes.



## AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

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THE general plan of the conference is as follows:—

Saturday, June 14, 9.0 a.m. Delegates will assemble in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library. Morning and afternoon will be occupied by visits to the principal libraries of Boston and Cambridge, where opportunity will be given to study the methods in use, and to see the library buildings. This is especially for delegates who have never seen the libraries of the vicinity.

Sunday—Monday, June 15—16. Delegates may either continue their stay in Boston, seeing Libraries or points of historic interest, or go to Magnolia (27 miles from Boston), where the general convention will be open Monday evening, June 16.

Monday morning to Friday evening will be given to business sessions of the conference at Magnolia, probably arranged in the following order:—

Monday, June 16. Meeting of Council, Special Committees, etc., Arrival of Delegates, Informal Social Evening.

Tuesday, June 17. MORNING—First General Session; Reports of Officers, Standing and Special Committees. AFTERNOON—Free. EVENING Second General Session; President's Address; Greetings from Massachusetts Library Club, and other addresses.

Wednesday, June 18. MORNING—Simultaneous Meetings of College and Reference Section; Children's Librarians' Section; National Association of State Librarians. AFTERNOON—State Association Meetings; Alumni Meetings, etc. EVENING—Simultaneous Meetings; Round Table, Officers and Members of State Library Associations; National Association of State Librarians.

Thursday, June 19. MORN Third General Session; Reports of Standing and Special Com: ued; ] discussions.

AFTERNOON—Simultaneous Meeting of Catalog Section, Children's Librarians' Section, Trustees' Section. EVENING—Fourth General Session devoted to Bibliographical Topics.

Friday, June 20. MORNING—Fifth General Session; Election of Officers; Supplementary Reports; Papers and discussions. AFTERNOON—Final Committee Meetings, &c. EVENING—Sixth General Session; Report of Committee on Resolutions; Papers and addresses.

Saturday, June 21. Start on excursions, of which particulars will be announced later, but which will probably include (a) round of inspection of Public Libraries; (b) tour of historic towns; (c) pleasure excursions to (1) White Mountains and (2) Maine coast; opportunity being thus afforded for getting acquainted, and obtaining that touch with the library movement so necessary to successful work at home.

Final adjournment, June 27.

Magnolia is one of the most beautiful resorts on the New England coast, having a fine sand beach, rugged rocks and chasms, and forest paths and roads all within a very short distance of the hotels.



## CORRESPONDENCE.

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### LEEDS LIBRARY REPORT.

*To the Editor of THE LIBRARY WORLD.*

SIR,—Your notice of the Leeds Report came to me as a great surprise. I was under the impression that librarians were no longer either mere constables or recorders, but were guides to the best literature in the library. I know nothing of the work done in the Leeds Public Library, but the fact that the librarian lays great emphasis upon the quality instead of the quantity of the books read proves that there is a liberal mind at work, and the *L. W.* belies its character in ridiculing such work.

This is not the place to go into the question as to the meaning of statistics, but when we remember that "Robert Elsmere" and "The Egoist" are classed as *light reading*, and "The Rivals" and "The Ingoldsby Legends" as *serious reading*, we might, I think, pay a little less attention to the evidence of literary taste as displayed in the dismal annual report issued by the Stodgytown Public Library. (I commend this subject to the notice of the Pseudonyms.)

In my humble opinion, the librarian who tries—either personally or through his assistants—to lead readers from the trash in his library to its treasures, is carrying on an educational work. Of course, there is no library with trash on the shelves—at least, well, let us say, the same as the comic opera sailor who never runs a ship ashore. Such a librarian cannot point to "a steadily increasing turnover, &c."

It doesn't matter a farthing whether the . . . number of readers borrowed [*not read*] an average number of . . . volumes, and that the stock of . . . volumes had a turnover of . . . Annual reports may go on like the familiar brook (with now and then as much noise as the falls of Lodore), but the influence of the sympathetic and tactful assistant, who is quietly educating the average person is not to be measured.

The average product of the elementary school comes to the library able to read, but utterly ignorant of reading, and often wastes years simply for want of guidance. Take a boy of fourteen who has just left school. He reads voraciously through Kingston, Verne, Henty, Aimard, &c. (if no worse), and at the time "a lovelier iris comes upon the burnished dove," he seeks solace in the love stories of Scott or Meredith—not a bit of it! He steepes himself in the art of love (as practised by those heroes and villains—of high degree without exception) created by Mrs. Wood and Miss Braddon.

The experience of the "missionary" assistant is very similar to that of a police-court missionary, and he dolefully confesses that he has given up certain hardened cases, and that he only hopes for good results when he "catches 'em young."

I do not know whether any English library has (as in Hamburg) special assistants, whose sole duty it is to advise and help borrowers, but it seems to me that such assistants are absolutely necessary. I remember with gratitude the unsparring pains the assistant in the splendid reference library in Newcastle took in helping students, but in the lending library the books were mechanically issued by boys. I merely mention this as an illustration, as I believe it is typical of English Public Libraries.

I fail to see why the slightest importance is attached to the number of issues in a year. I take it that the Leeds librarian takes more pleasure in seeing a borrower come once a week for a novel, if it be, let us say, by Thackeray or Meredith, than he would in the reader who borrowed only "The Christian" and "The Sorrows of Satan" during the whole twelve months; and, if this is so, then the *L.W.* should welcome this sign of change. Talks to readers, lectures, and open access are each and all aiming at the same object—the bringing the more or less untrained reader to a closer knowledge of the best books, and at Leeds they seem to be doing this by the Hamburg method.

Yours truly,

T. E. MAW.

Stanley Public Library, King's Lynn.

[The main point at issue between Mr. Maw and our Annual Report Analyser appears to be the difficulty of ascertaining or gauging the *quality* of fiction. It is not very easy to track the issues of Scott, Meredith, &c., in a busy Public Library, and we take it that our contributor alludes to this in his note, as nothing is said in the Leeds report as to the means adopted to measure the *quality* of the fiction issued.—ED.]

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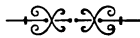


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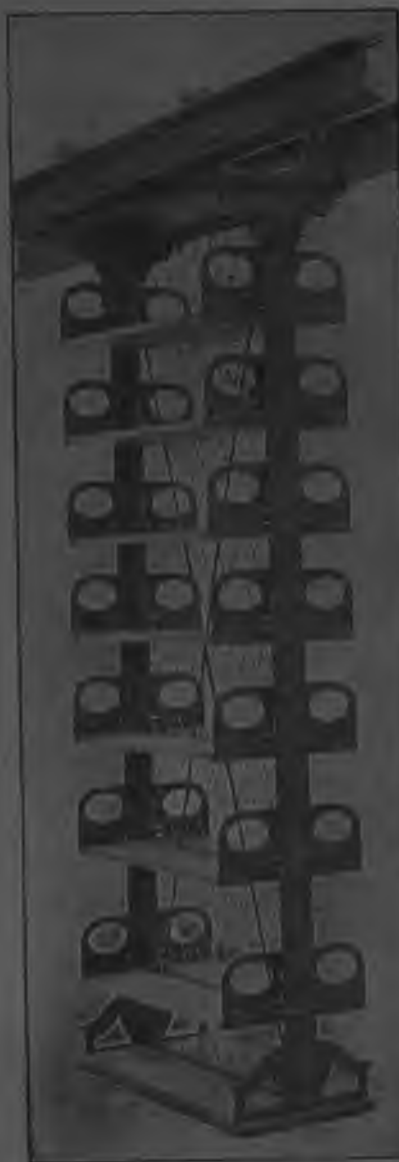
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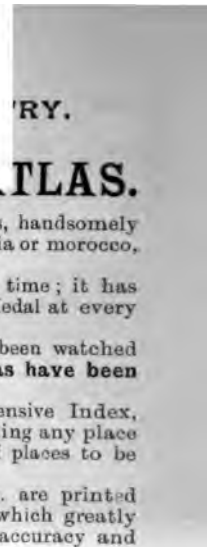
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| <p><b>North Polar Chart—Frontispiece.</b><br/> <b>1. The World in Hemispheres.</b><br/> <b>2. Chart of the World, on Mercator's Projection,</b> showing the Direction of the Ocean Currents, with the Routes and Distances between the principal Ports.<br/> <b>3. Europe (General Map).</b><br/> <b>4. Atlantic Ocean, Basin of the North;</b> showing Depths, Currents, Routes, Cables, etc.<br/> <b>5. England and Wales (Northern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>6. England and Wales (Southern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>7. Scotland (Northern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>8. Scotland (Southern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>9. Ireland.</b><br/> <b>10. France.</b><br/> <b>11. Spain and Portugal.</b><br/> <b>12. Mediterranean, Basin of the;</b> showing Depths, Routes, Cables, etc.<br/> <b>13. Italy, Central and North, and the Island of Corsica.</b><br/> <b>14. Italy, South, and the Islands of Sardinia and Sicily.</b><br/> <b>15. Switzerland.</b><br/> <b>16. Belgium, and the Netherlands.</b><br/> <b>17. Denmark.</b> [Portion].<br/> <b>18. Germany, Empire of, South-Western</b><br/> <b>19. Germany Empire of (Northern</b> Portion).<br/> <b>20. Austria, Hungary (Western Sheet).</b><br/> <b>21. Austria, Hungary (Eastern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>22. Turkey in Europe.</b><br/> <b>23. Greece.</b><br/> <b>24. Sweden and Norway.</b><br/> <b>25. Baltic, Basin of the;</b> showing Depths, Routes, Cables, etc.</p> | <p><b>26. Russia in Europe.</b><br/> <b>27. Russia, South-West;</b> showing the extent of the Kingdom of Poland previous to its partition in 1771.<br/> <b>28. Asia (General Map).</b><br/> <b>29. Asia, Central.</b><br/> <b>30. Turkey in Asia.</b><br/> <b>31. Palestine, or the Holy Land.</b><br/> <b>32. Persia, Afghanistan, &amp; Baluchistan.</b><br/> <b>33. India (Northern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>34. India (Southern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>35. China and Japan.</b><br/> <b>36. Oceania.</b><br/> <b>37. Australia.</b><br/> <b>38. Australia (South), New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, etc.</b><br/> <b>39. New Zealand.</b><br/> <b>40. Africa (General Map).</b><br/> <b>41. Africa, South.</b><br/> <b>42. Africa, Central and North-West.</b><br/> <b>43. Egypt.</b><br/> <b>44. Abyssinia and Upper Nubia.</b><br/> <b>45. North America (General Map).</b><br/> <b>46. Canada Dominion of (Western Sheet).</b><br/> <b>47. Canada, Dominion of (Central Sheet).</b> [Sheet.]<br/> <b>48. Canada, Dominion of (Eastern Sheet).</b> [Sheet.]<br/> <b>49. United States (North-East).</b><br/> <b>50. United States (South-East).</b><br/> <b>51. United States (North-West).</b><br/> <b>52. United States (South-West).</b><br/> <b>53. Mexico.</b><br/> <b>54. West Indian Islands and Central America</b><br/> <b>55. South America (Northern Sheet).</b><br/> <b>56. South America (Southern Sheet).</b></p> |
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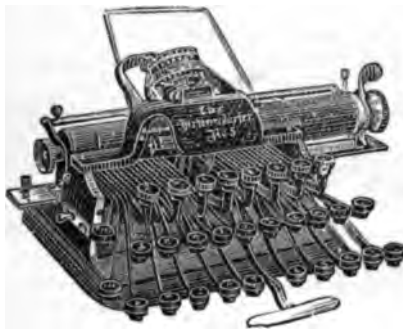
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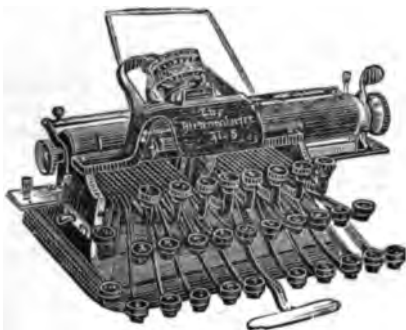
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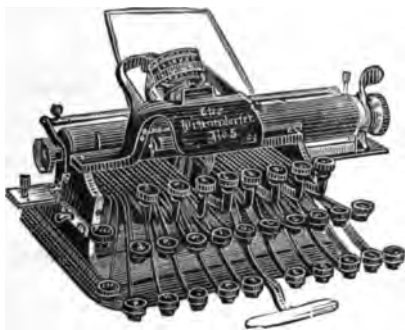
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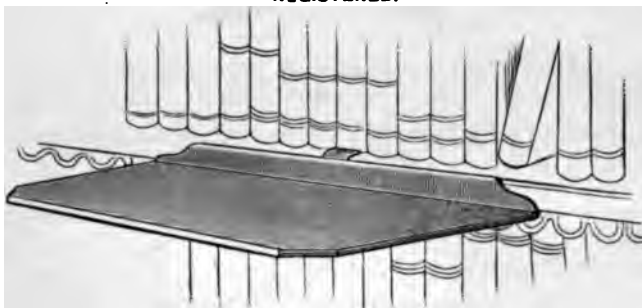
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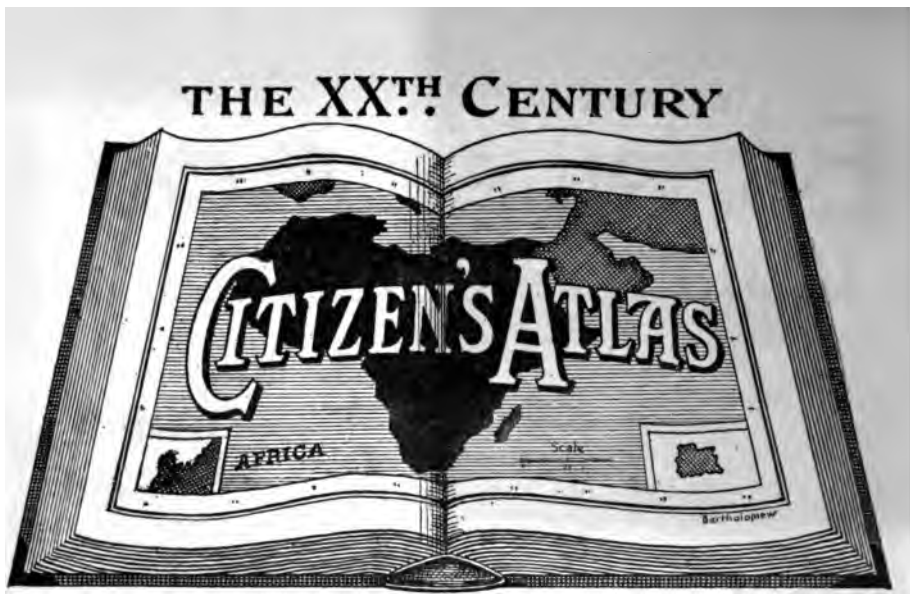
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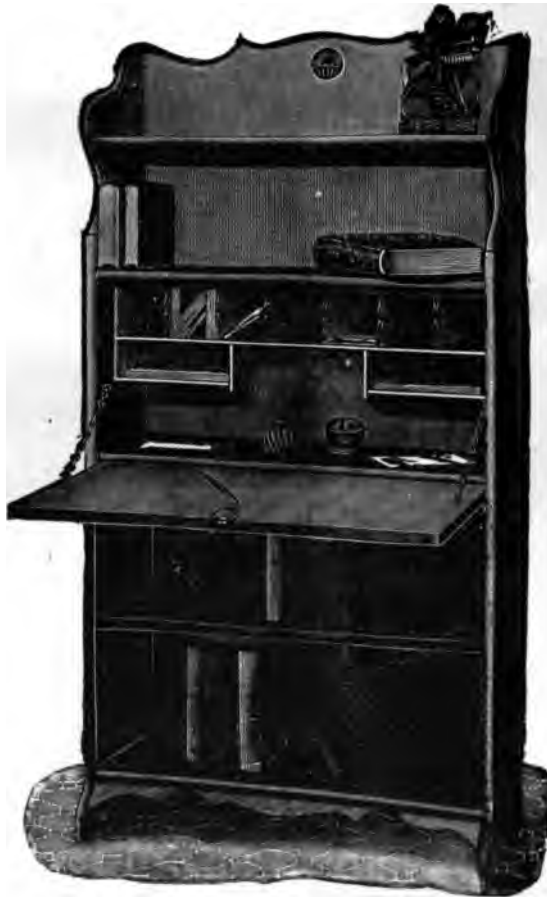
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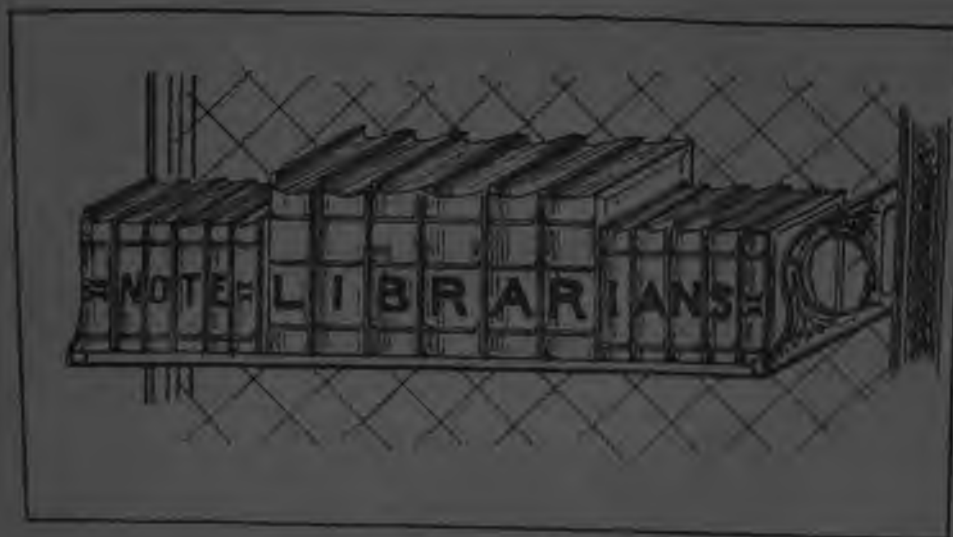
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